

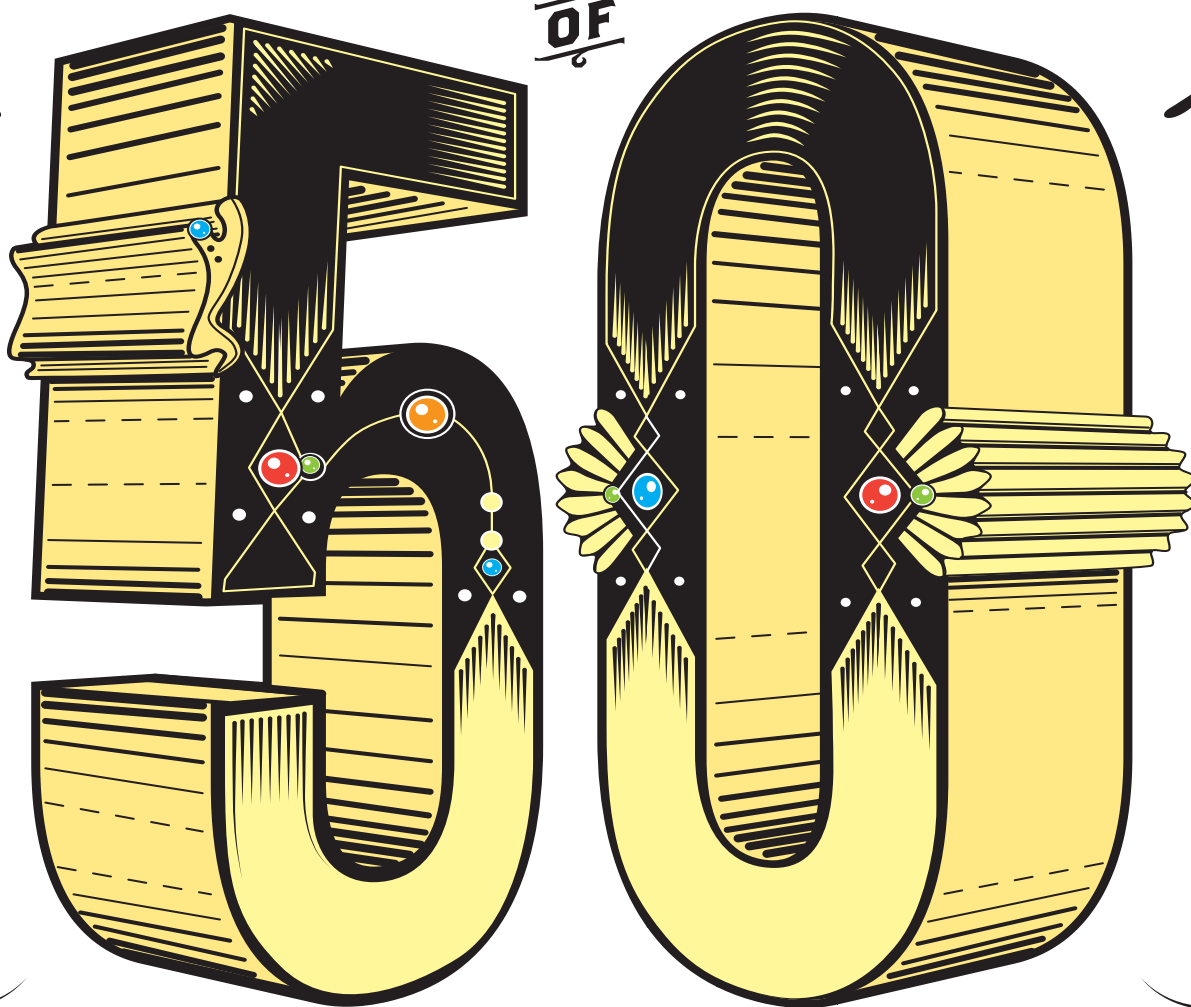
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THE STRANGER

NICE TATTOO As seen on a northbound light-rail train.

THE STATE ON YOUR LEG

There it was, the state of Washington. It rose from your black boot in much the same way a sun rises from a mountain. You were sitting in a northbound Link train. You sat alone. The

I, ANONYMOUS

To submit an unsigned confession or accusation, send an e-mail to ianonymous@thestranger.com. Please remember to change the names of the innocent and guilty.



RESTROOM SAMARITAN

Since this story involves a public bathroom, a wallet, and a 74-year-old man, I can definitely understand if you expect it to be gross, or at least uncomfortable, but this was written on behalf of my dad, who is old and doesn't quite understand the internet. He was on a bike ride last week and left his backpack—containing his wallet, AARP card, ID, cash, and pictures of his grandchildren—in a park restroom. This message is for the stranger who picked it up: You could have easily done any number of terrible things, from pocketing his cash to stealing his identity, and yet you chose to get in contact with him and return everything before he even had time to cancel the credit cards. You didn't even lift a \$5 bill for your trouble. I wonder who you are and whether you hesitated when you saw the bag hooked on the wall. Did the thought of taking it cross your mind, or are you such a good person that doing the right thing was your immediate instinct? Either way, you made an entire family's day better, and it is comforting to know that there are people like you in the world. Thank you.

—Anonymous

14-year-old girl sitting behind you talked on the phone about how her friend was messing with a 27-year-old man, and as we wondered if that “messing” constituted a crime, and as you looked out the window, we examined the details of your tattoo, which is a striking mix of blues and greens. We could clearly see Puget Sound and, vaguely, the San Juan Islands. And also the most northwestern tip of the continental United States, Cape Flattery. We were able to determine the exact position of Port Angeles, which has ferries going to and coming from Victoria, BC. We wanted to see the rest of our state—particularly the border defined by the course of the Columbia River—but you changed the position of your legs, and Washington returned to the depths of your black boot.

BLOODSHOT BEFORE BEYONCÉ'S SHOW

Outside of CenturyLink Field for last Wednesday's Beyoncé concert, we saw you, a young woman in your early 20s, on the corner of Occidental Avenue South and Royal Brougham Way. You had clearly spent a lot of timing getting ready for the event—you wore a minidress and cute suede booties, your blonde hair had been curled into long, cascading waves, your eyes were rimmed with lots of black eyeliner, and your skin glowed and shimmered. Unfortunately, your eyes were also red and a little bloodshot and you might have been in tears. You could barely stand and needed your friend, who was similarly dressed up, to support you. We suspect you probably pre-funxed a little too hard—no judgment, it happens. But it breaks our heart to think that you may not have been able to enjoy the concert, because Beyoncé *slayed*.

BEYONCÉ V. BILLY JOEL

On our way home from having our consciousness reordered at the Beyoncé concert, we shared an elevator in the Beacon Hill light rail station with you, a CenturyLink concessions vendor. You told all of us, more than 20 people packed tightly into the elevator, that you had sold 1,400 beers during the show and declared that we had all had a good time. You said that you were an old man just trying to get home and rest because, lord help you, you had the Billy Joel concert coming up just two nights later. Then you added that Billy Joel fans buy way more beer and have way more fun, which just didn't seem right. We later found out, from someone who shared an elevator with you after

Deleted Customer Reviews for Gold Medal All-Purpose Flour

★☆☆☆

I broke my foot while exploring an abandoned property and bought this product on the internet. But what the FUCK. When the box arrived, the flour bag had split open and there was fucking flour EVERYWHERE. Oh, I get it. You're “old-timey.” You want your flour to be in “old-timey bags.” BUT OLD-TIMEY BAGS DON'T MEAN SHIT IN THE FUTURE! Drag your ass into the fucking 21st century, put your product in a present day bag, and refund my fucking money.

Was this review helpful to you? Yes I No



★☆☆☆

I love this flour, but I have to drive all the way to Kentucky to get it! Do you understand how long that takes? 7 and a half hours. You think I have 7 and a half hours to drive to Kentucky, find a grocery store that sells your flour, and drive 7 and a half hours back? And that don't include the time it takes to bake my biscuits! I am not a fool, Gold Medal. And I am very disappointed that you think I am.

Was this review helpful to you? Yes I No

★☆☆☆

I've never had any issue with any product in my life until I tried Gold Medal All-Purpose Baking Flour. It's like you had a meeting to decide how to make the worst baking flour in existence. I made a batch of cookies for my cousin's daughter's communion. Disaster. I baked an apple pie for a friend's funeral. It was returned. I made pancakes for the families of 9/11 victims. They said they'd suffered enough. Does it bring you joy to cause your customers such embarrassment and pain? I hope Satan claims your souls and every last one of you burns in hell forever.

Was this review helpful to you? Yes I No

★☆☆☆

Bag busted open hit the sidewalk and blew up like a goddamn bomb. Flour went everywhere, covered up my clothes and my face, looked like a goddamn ghost. Now when I walk down the street, the kids yell, “Look out here comes the ghost, boo boo boo.” I've been humiliated by your product for the last time.

Was this review helpful to you? Yes I No

the Billy Joel concert, that you sold only 900 beers that night—but much more red wine.

BAREFOOT IN FURS

Sitting at a bus stop on Bellevue Avenue East near Howell on a Wednesday evening, you—a twentysomething white guy—were wearing a fur coat while barefoot. We hope this doesn't become a trend.

ARGUING OVER FASHION IN A FAR-FLUNG DAIRY QUEEN

It was a hot Saturday afternoon and the Marysville Dairy Queen was mostly empty, except for a noisy family sitting at one table, a woman wearing a tie-dyed T-shirt and bedazzled jeans, and you—two tall, tastefully dressed, and clearly out of place men. On your way north from Seattle, you'd stopped at DQ for fries and Orange Julius. While you waited for your order, you were engaged in a heated argument about whether fashion is an art form. One of you—the one adamantly *opposed* to counting fashion as art—lowered your voice and gestured at the tie-dyed woman. “Is that art?” you muttered. “The sole purpose of fashion is to be mass produced,” you continued, food in hand and heading for the door, “so it can be worn by dipshits out here.”

POLITICS AND PASTRIES ON A WEEKDAY MORNING

You were working the morning shift in the kitchen of Crumble & Flake on a Wednesday morning as customers wearing Amazon badges stopped in for coffee and croissants on their

way down to South Lake Union. We started eavesdropping midway through your conversation. You understood most of what was going on in the circus of the 2016 election cycle. “But,” you asked your coworker, “what is populism?”

STUMPTOWN V. ANALOG

You stepped up to the counter at Stumptown on a Monday morning and ordered an Americano and a latte. Tucked under your arm: a tote bag advertising Analog, a coffee shop just a few blocks away. We can't imagine there's much love between the arty, minimalist, comics-carrying shop and the regional chain now owned by Peet's, so we couldn't help but wonder: Was this accidental or intentional? Did your friends know you were at Stumptown? Had you traded allegiances but kept the bag? We can't blame you. It's a very nice tote.

TAKING A SELFIE IN THE MIDDLE OF SATURDAY NIGHT TRAFFIC

Outside the Baltic Room on Saturday night, you confidently walked into the middle of traffic, armed only with a selfie stick and a smile. Cars honked as you stood in the middle of the road, using their halogen beams as your back lighting. You took a photo with your back to the traffic and then a photo facing the traffic. Is this some new trend? Some new fetish? Some new height of narcissism? Who knows. In that moment, no world-ending asteroid began to bear down on the earth. No quartet of flaming horsemen emerged from the clouds. But there was something, some palpable ounce of humanity that you stripped from the air that night, and we want it back. ■



Oct. 7
SNAP JUDGMENT

Oct. 8
SIMPLY THREE

Oct. 13
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Oct. 19 - 30
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Oct. 21
WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?

Oct. 23
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Oct. 29
MAGED PARKER
WITH THE JONES FAMILY SINGERS

Oct. 31
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Nov. 5
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Nov. 18
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Dec. 13 - 18
HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Jan. 10 - 15
FINDING NEVERLAND

Jan. 20
COMPANY WAYNE MCGREGOR - "ATOMOS"

Jan. 24 - Feb. 3
THE KING AND I

Jan. 28
BASSEM YOUSSEF -
"THE JOKE IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD"

Feb. 2 - 12
NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND -
"LET THE RIGHT ONE IN"

Feb. 8 - Mar. 6
SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS - "LOVE STORIES"

Feb. 11
BAT SHEVA DANCE COMPANY -
"LAST WORK" BY OHAD NAHARIN

Feb. 21 - 26
RENT

Mar. 11 & 12
DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

Mar. 17
STARBUCKS HOT JAVA COOL JAZZ

Mar. 24
16th ANNUAL MORE MUSIC @ THE MOORE

Mar. 25
SHAPING SOUND

Mar. 28 - Apr. 2
MAMMA MIA!

Apr. 5
BLACK VIOLIN

Apr. 12
JUAN DE MARCOS
AND THE AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS

Apr. 10 - 24
SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS - "COMEDY CLASSICS"

Apr. 23
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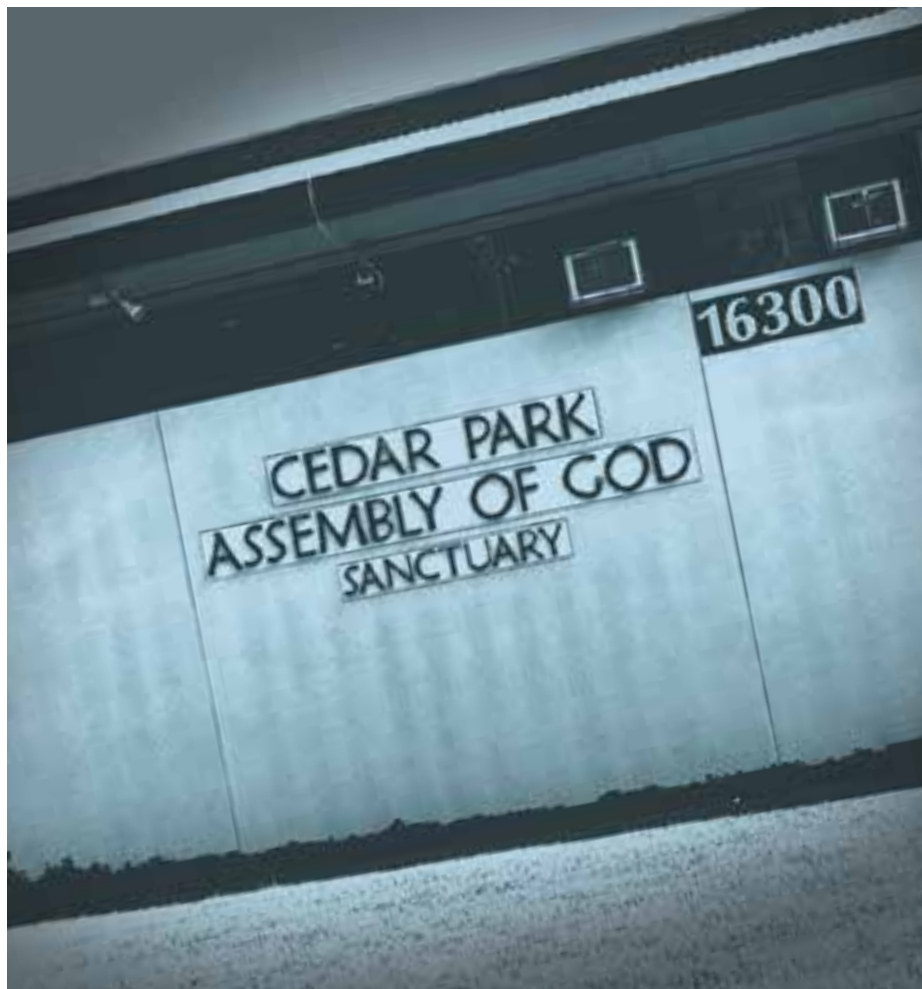
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NEWS



PRAY AWAY THE SPRAY Local Christians flush money down the toilet.

Church Funding Anti-Trans Attack Tells Evangelicals “It Ain’t Over”

Cedar Park Church Has Given \$10,000 to Just Want Privacy’s Anti-Trans Ballot Initiative, and They’re Praying for Seattle

BY SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

“It ain’t over,” Pastor Jay Smith told his congregation at a recent Sunday morning service at the Cedar Park Church in Bothell. Smith, a smiling, sandy-haired 38-year-old, projected those words on two giant screens as he preached.

In 2012, Cedar Park Church contributed more than \$20,000 to Preserve Marriage Washington, the failed anti-gay-marriage campaign. In 2016, the church is now the largest individual contributor to Just Want Privacy, the statewide effort to repeal human-rights protections for transgender adults and children. Just Want Privacy’s I-1515 also goes one step further than repealing existing protections: It would mandate that public school bathrooms are gender-segregated, and then allow schools to be sued for letting trans kids use the bathrooms in which they are most comfortable.

“You know the community that we live in, the culture that there is, that’s swirling around today, see all sorts of things happening in our society, and everybody just wants

to go nuts,” Smith told his congregants. “Everyone’s saying, ‘Oh man, it’s just, the wheels are falling off, things are going crazy, what are we going to do, America as we know it is over, everything is blah blah blah.’ Here’s what I want to tell you: *Shhh*. Just breathe deep.”

Smith continued: “No matter what you see, no matter what you feel, no matter what you hear, it ain’t over. It ain’t over when people resist the good news of the Gospel, that doesn’t mean it’s over. When people just fall on and go pagan and go crazy, that doesn’t mean it’s over. When it’s over, you’ll know it. I mean, spoiler alert: I’ve read the end of the book.”

A week after Ted Cruz dropped out of the race for president, journalist Sarah Posner mused on whether Cruz’s failure signaled the end times for the religious right’s grip on Republican politics. Right-wing evangelical Christians have helped shape Republicans’ political agenda for decades,

she explained in the *New York Times* opinion section. Now the rise of Donald Trump—a philandering two-time divorcee who once said that transgender people should be able to use whichever bathrooms they want—has thrown their political power and unity into question.

But if the evangelical movement is in turmoil, you couldn’t tell at Cedar Park, which is just a half-hour drive northeast of Seattle. Eight hundred people filled the church’s main worship space on the Sunday I attended services. A full band played to an auditorium with three enormous video screens and its own bustling cafe.

The church’s \$10,000 contribution to Just Want Privacy’s cause makes up about a quarter of the anti-trans campaign’s overall funding, but Cedar Park stays on the legal side of its tax-exempt status as long as its political lobbying doesn’t support or reject a specific candidate or “constitute a substantial part of its overall activities,” according to the IRS’s tax guide for churches and religious organizations. What constitutes a “substantial part of [a church’s] overall activities” isn’t clear. The IRS evaluates that on a case-by-case basis—and Pastor Smith’s congregation just successfully raised \$450,000 for lights and other improvements on its sports field. For a church that can afford to pay \$450,000 for sports field improvements, it’s unlikely that a \$10,000 political contribution violates IRS rules.

Pastor Smith’s sermon on the day I attended didn’t explicitly reference politics, but he still preached a message that felt relevant to evangelicals’ current political reality. Smith took over the duties of senior pastor from 65-year-old Reverend Joe Fuiten in 2015 after serving as lead pastor at Cedar Park Northshore for six years. He uses the word “awesome” often and doesn’t shy away from social media. In February, Smith shared the Family Research Institute’s video of a “Digital Pro-Life Pioneer Award” being given to David Daleiden, the antiabortion activist who secretly filmed Planned Parenthood officials and has since been indicted. Last summer, Smith also posted an antiabortion meme that attempted to play off the Black Lives Matter movement. It showed a baby with its arms above its head and the words “Hands up, don’t crush” along with the hashtag #defundplannedparenthood.

Smith went on to tell his congregation that starting that morning, their church would be participating in a revival. Seventy-five churches, over the next 100 days, are uniting to pray for the greater Seattle area. The prayers would contain seven items altogether, including repentance for the city, redemption of city dwellers, and the “reign of God over our city.”

After the sermon, Smith told me that Cedar Park had contributed to the Just Want Privacy campaign because they wanted a voice and believed in democracy. He characterized the state Human Rights Commission’s decision to clarify an existing rule to protect transgender people in bathrooms as “just something that’s been handed down from the courts.”

But what is so harmful about letting

transgender people pee where they want?

“I think we want to see good and blessing in everyone’s life, but the issue is that it opens doors for other dangerous situations, [with] pedophiles for instance,” Smith said. He told me that the church’s position had less to do with transgender people and more to do with predators—creepy men he thinks could sneak into women’s restrooms in order to prey on children. “Who can stop a pedophile from entering into a bathroom? And so it’s really in the mind of safety and propriety. And essentially this is the way that civilization has been for hundreds of years in Western civilization. And this is a new idea, this idea of transgenderism.”

When I pointed out that children can get assaulted in any public place, including churches, Smith insisted that bathrooms are “a unique environment.”

Of course, the issue has everything to do with transgender people. Trans people face some of the highest rates of violence, including astronomical rates of sexual violence, in the country. Recognizing this, the state Human Rights Commission added language to the state’s 10-year-old antidiscrimination code to clarify the existing law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

But groups like Just Want Privacy say that trans rights put children at risk—the same argument that used to be routinely trotted out against gays and lesbians. While antigay activists once insisted on debunked myths that accepting gay people would lead to the acceptance of pedophilia, or that gay parents would molest their children, to-

day, anti-trans activists say that pedophiles would pretend to be transgender in order to assault children in bathrooms. This ignores the fact that preying on children is illegal no matter what, the problem of people pretending to be transgender in order to assault children doesn’t actually exist, and grown men already share bathrooms with little boys who are also targets for pedophiles. But the idea of putting little girls at risk is a potent image.

The parishioners I spoke to after Smith’s sermon had various feelings about transgender people using bathrooms. One woman who wanted to be quoted by only her first name, Katie, said that she didn’t think transgender women using the same restrooms was a big deal “as long as a person is honest.” At the same time, she didn’t like how the law was clarified to protect transgender people: “I think it’s ridiculous. It seems like people have lost their cotton-picking minds. It’s a matter of privacy.” Another parishioner, Kristy Welles, said she thought being transgender was a choice, a similar argument made about homosexuality: “I believe what you come out of the womb is what you are.”

Smith told me he doesn’t know what this election season will ultimately mean for the evangelical movement’s participation in national politics. “I think primarily it’s just a reminder to us that, hey, our hope as Christians isn’t in a political system, it’s hope in God,” Smith said. But until the national political system sorts itself out, Smith’s congregation is praying that their God will reign over Seattle. ■

Seventy-five churches are uniting to pray for Seattle, the redemption of city dwellers, and the “reign of God over our city.”

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City Betrays Cyclists

Council Members Join Outcry Over Delayed Bike Plan, Call for Quick Fixes to Dangerous Streets

BY ANSEL HERZ

On August 29, 2014, a young attorney named Sher Kung died in downtown Seattle when a truck struck her as she biked to work on Second Avenue. She left behind a wife and infant daughter.

Antoine McNamara, a downtown attorney and resident of Beacon Hill, remembers riding past his friend's body on his way to work on the day that Kung died. A tarp was laid over it.

Dozens of people held a memorial ride to remember Kung. A shrine, including a “ghost bike” painted white and bouquets of flowers, appeared at the corner where she died.

City officials moved *fast*. Three months earlier, Mayor Ed Murray had directed engineers and planners to jump-start the construction of a protected bike lane on the street, using easy-to-install plastic pylons. Ten days after Kung's death, Murray inaugurated the new bike lane. A literal death trap was transformed into vastly safer bidirectional pathway for cyclists with a physical barrier separating them from vehicular traffic.

McNamara said he felt like he heard all the right things from the city after Kung's death. A mayoral spokesperson said at the time that the protected bike lane likely would have saved Kung's life. McNamara agrees.

He stayed engaged as last July the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) unveiled the Center City Bike Network plan to improve downtown safety and promised to begin building it by 2016. But city officials said they needed funding. So McNamara went out and advocated for last fall's \$930 million Move Seattle levy. Cascade Bicycle Club, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, and bike advocates from around the city worked to pass the levy—and 58 percent of Seattle voters approved it.

Then last month, cyclists got distressing news about the city's plan for the next five years of bike safety projects. Instead of the expected infusion of cash into bike infrastructure following the passage of the levy, which was sold as a prime funding measure for the city's Bicycle Master Plan, there would be significant cuts.

Over the coming five years, the city's new implementation plan for the overall Bicycle Master Plan cuts the five-year total of protected bike lanes by nine miles and cuts neighborhood greenways by 20 miles. Two years after Kung's death, the Second Avenue protected bike lane remains stranded, disconnected from other protected bike lanes—though its plastic pylons have since been upgraded to planter boxes. And SDOT, to the dismay of cyclists, decided to delay the build-out of a downtown bicycle network—the Center City Bike Network—until it finishes collecting data about downtown bus traffic.

"It feels like a bait and switch," McNamara said. "It doesn't feel like it's prioritizing what matters."

unglamorous quick-fix bike lanes on dangerous streets.

City council members Mike O'Brien and Rob Johnson are urging Murray's SDOT to get back to doing what it did with Second Avenue: implementing simple and swift interventions that protect the lives of cyclists, and then improve on them over time.

At a recent council hearing, Johnson told SDOT officials he wanted the department to take more “immediate-term steps” to make cycling safer in key areas, citing the testimony of dozens of commuters and families who had biked into City Hall holding #WeCan’tWait signs. One man said he knew of four people in his North Seattle neighborhood who’d been hit by cars in the previous week, including a mother and child who were hospitalized.

"We've gotta be able to have some rapid responses," Johnson said.

O'Brien talked about making "less expensive investments... maybe on a temporary basis, to deliver the safety that's necessary so people can make the connections to downtown sooner. I think

there are opportunities to pilot something, like we did on Second Avenue.”

When it comes to downtown, the Seattle Bike Blog has some specific suggestions about where SDOT can start connecting the Second Avenue bike lane to the rest of the city, starting now, if Murray wants to take “bold, fast action” like he did in 2014: North to Dexter and the new Westlake cycle track, south to Dearborn, east to Broadway, and west to the Alaskan Way Trail entrance at King Street.

In a statement, SDOT threw cold water on the ideas, saying only that the agency would install them “where we can... but these opportunities are becoming fewer as safety concerns often necessitate new signals, raised driveways, and more substantial buffers.”

At a May 4 gathering of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, McNamara recounted the experience of seeing his friend's dead body in the road and then pleaded with the city officials in the room to move faster. He talked about the expedited Second Avenue bike lane construction that had come so close to saving his friend's life: "Ten days delay made the difference between life and death for her... She would still be alive and that 7-month-old girl would still have a mom."

McNamara said he'd take a "pilot project" or quick safety upgrade any day over more delays or gleaming new planters. "Now it's 'We need to do more planning,'" said McNamara. "I get it, that we need to figure out where the buses go and stuff. But 10 days made the difference. That was life or death. And we're talking about pushing [the downtown bike plan] off two years?"

McNamara paused, his voice quavering.

"Just make a safe place for people to ride their bikes!" he said. "The 'Seattle Process' can really have impacts on... on real people's lives." ■

City officials seem to have forgotten how dramatically life-saving protected bike lanes can be—including immediate,

NEWS SHORTS

TWO PREGNANT WOMEN IN WASHINGTON HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR ZIKA

State officials announced the new Zika cases on May 20, bringing the total number of people in Washington State who've tested positive for the virus to four. The pregnant women now have to wait three weeks to find out whether the virus has impacted their pregnancies.

Nearly 300 pregnant women in the United States and Puerto Rico have also tested positive for the mosquito-borne



LEVI HASTINGS

and sexually transmitted virus, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is tracking these pregnancies to see if the virus results in miscarriage or birth defects. Keep in mind that **much of the United States is just entering mosquito season**, and many experts believe it's only a matter of time until *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes—insects that are plentiful across wide swaths of the American South—start transmitting the virus locally in the continental US. SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

FOUR OF NINE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE MILLIONAIRES

And of those, three are fabulously wealthy *multimillionaires*. When Seattle voters approved the Honest Elections initiative last year, they passed into law a requirement for sitting city council members to report their sources of income. Now newly filed financial disclosure forms first reported by the blog Seattle City Council Insight show the following approximate **net worths of more than \$1 million**: Council President Bruce Harrell, \$10 million; Sally Bagshaw, \$7 million; Tim Burgess, \$5 million; and Mike O'Brien, \$1.5 million. Most of that money came from real estate and investments. ANSEL HERZ

MAYOR FACES BACKLASH OVER PLAN TO SWEEP THE JUNGLE

A week after Mayor Ed Murray's administration announced plans to shut down a large homeless encampment under I-5 known as the Jungle, advocates and city council members are calling bullshit. Murray's plan for the area gives outreach workers just two weeks to try to connect the **200 to 400 people living in the encampment** to housing and services. The city and state would then use heavy equipment to clear the area and possibly install fencing to keep homeless people from returning. Seattle City Council members Sally Bagshaw and Mike O'Brien now say they are working on an alternative plan for the encampment. "A two- to three-week deadline is a recipe for failure," O'Brien told *The Stranger*. Specifics are not yet public, but the council members say their plan may ask for more time for outreach or for **dumpsters and toilets** in the area. O'Brien said the city should stop all encampment sweeps and allow people to camp in safe areas, including some areas under I-5. "I can envision a world in which there is no need for anyone to be camped out in the [Jungle] or anywhere else," O'Brien said. "But that world includes a lot more affordable housing than we have today, and that world is at least a few years away." HEIDI GROOVER

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Bans on Pot Shops in Alcohol Impact Areas Is a Ridiculously Bad Idea

Plus, the WSLCB Finally Sets Rules for Acceptable Pesticide Levels

BY TOBIAS COUGHLIN-BOGUE

Senator Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane) recently added another bill to his already impressive list of idiotic, regressive policy ideas: allowing cities to ban pot businesses in places based on preexisting alcohol impact areas (AIA).

The AIA program, for those who missed that dark chapter of our state's history, was cooked up in 1999 as a way to fight chronic street inebriation. Administered by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB), it bans the sale of certain types of booze that are especially popular with chronic street drunks.

That's right, it's not a ban on all high-ABV booze, it's a ban specifically on alcoholic drinks that homeless people gravitate to, and it applies only to stores, not bars. The first AIA in Seattle went into effect in Pioneer Square in 2003, and others exist in Tacoma, Olympia, Vancouver, and Spokane.

As anyone who spends time in Pioneer Square can tell you, AIAs didn't do a damn thing to solve chronic street inebriation. Instead, they only made life harder for people already living hard lives. The program is classist, racist, anti-homeless garbage at its worst.

Baumgartner is framing his proposal as a safety issue. "This is a common sense fix with serious public safety impact," he wrote in a press release announcing the bill. "The recreational market is still young and in need of updates. This is just another option for local cities to address public safety concerns."

Except that there is no evidence that legalizing pot has increased crime or created a public-safety hazard. Teens don't have easier access to it, and there is no proof that pot stores are nuisance businesses. There is actually more evidence to the contrary.

To wit, pot has been a boon to the Spokane economy, said Crystal Oliver, a Spokane-area grower. City leaders, she told me, see pot stores as a good thing for the city, especially in "distressed" areas. "Bringing in a business that is going to have foot traffic would be an overall improvement to that part of downtown," she said.

According to the *Spokesman-Review*, a Spokane church is driving the legislation. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes is unhappy that pot store Lucky Leaf opened nearby and blames the store for an increase in aggressive panhandling and other crime. Lacking support from the Spokane City Council, the church found an ally in Baumgartner.

But they may have trouble finding others sympathetic to their plight. At a May 12 special meeting of the senate's Commerce and Labor Committee to discuss the draft legislation,

two committee members walked out, according to Kevin Oliver, president of Washington's NORML chapter, who was present. In an interview, Senator Bob Hasegawa, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said: "I have many concerns about the bill, in part because there are a lot more issues at play than what is addressed in it. I got the sense that alcohol impact areas are not the correct nexus to address the issues raised in testimony we heard in Spokane last week. While there is perhaps an opening for more public input at the local level before marijuana businesses open, I think a lot of the concerns raised were stemming from preconceived notions about what impacts marijuana businesses may have on a community, as well as, if not even more so, issues around mental-health treatment and social services offered in the immediate vicinity."

The last thing we need to do is associate pot with a socially regressive policy at the behest of one Spokane church. There's enough of that in cannabis already, thank you very much.

WSLCB Finally Sets Rules for Pesticide Levels

On May 18, the WSLCB passed an emergency rule setting the state's first pesticide action levels for cannabis. It also approved

draft language for a permanent rule regarding product recalls, moving to make an earlier emergency rule permanent. The actions come in the aftermath of Pestgate, the recent snafu over the discovery of disallowed pesticides detected on Washington cannabis.

The action levels are modeled on Oregon's existing ones, with a blanket .1 ppm limit for all compounds not covered by their list. The Washington CannaBusiness Association welcomed the limits, citing them as a vast improvement over the previous system of zero tolerance.

"Pesticide action levels are standard in the food industry and other industries that create products for human consumption," the group stated in a press release. "Previously, tolerance standards were applied to pesticides in marijuana that were out of alignment with analogous industries, did not recognize the presence of pesticides in our natural environment, and were impossible to verify in the lab."

The two rules are integral to the overall consumer-safety framework for cannabis because, without action levels, it was nearly impossible for the WSLCB to demonstrate a clear reason for a recall. Though the state did issue stop-sale orders late in 2015 to two growers whose cannabis showed evidence of disallowed pesticides, there has not yet been an official recall of any products—only a smattering of voluntary ones within the industry. ■

There is no evidence that legalizing pot has increased crime or created a public-safety hazard.

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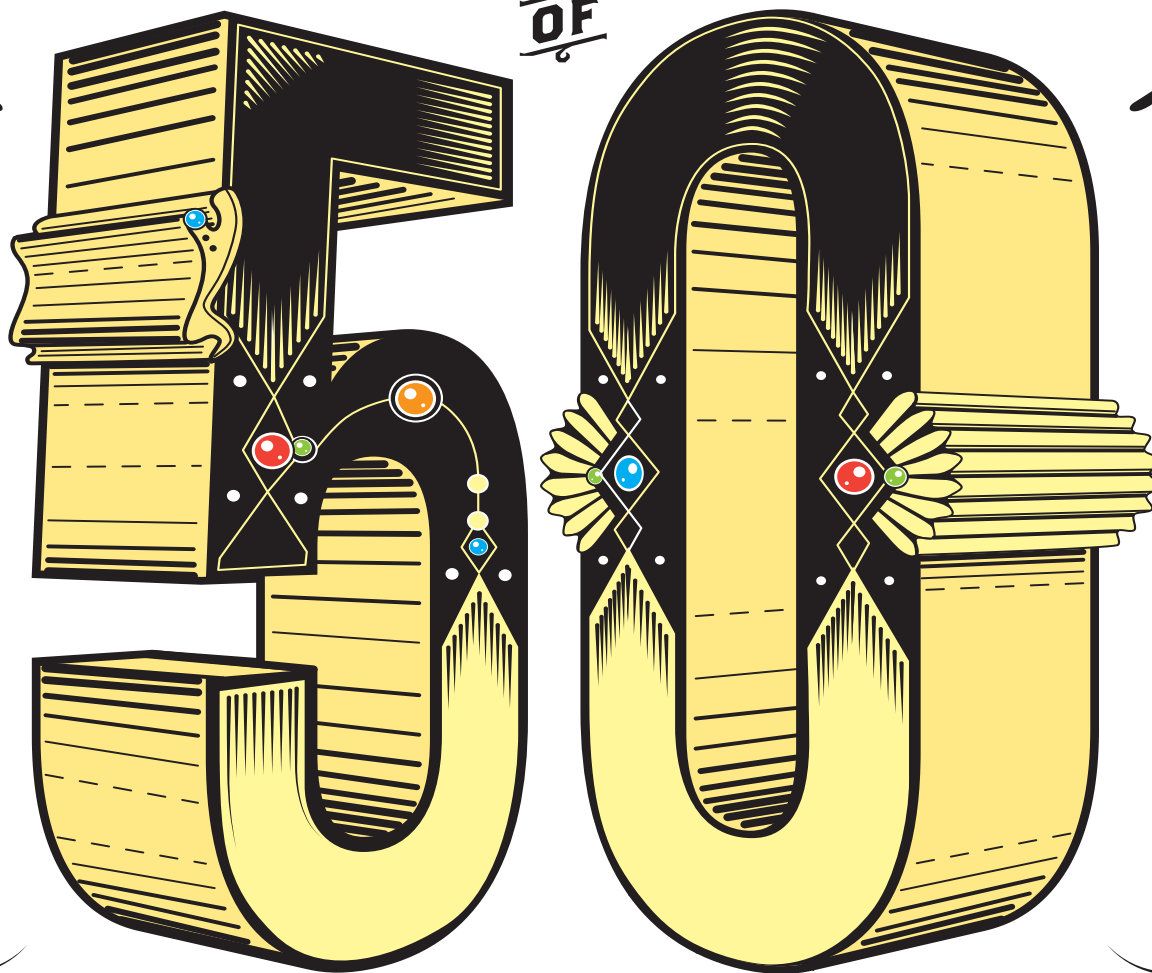
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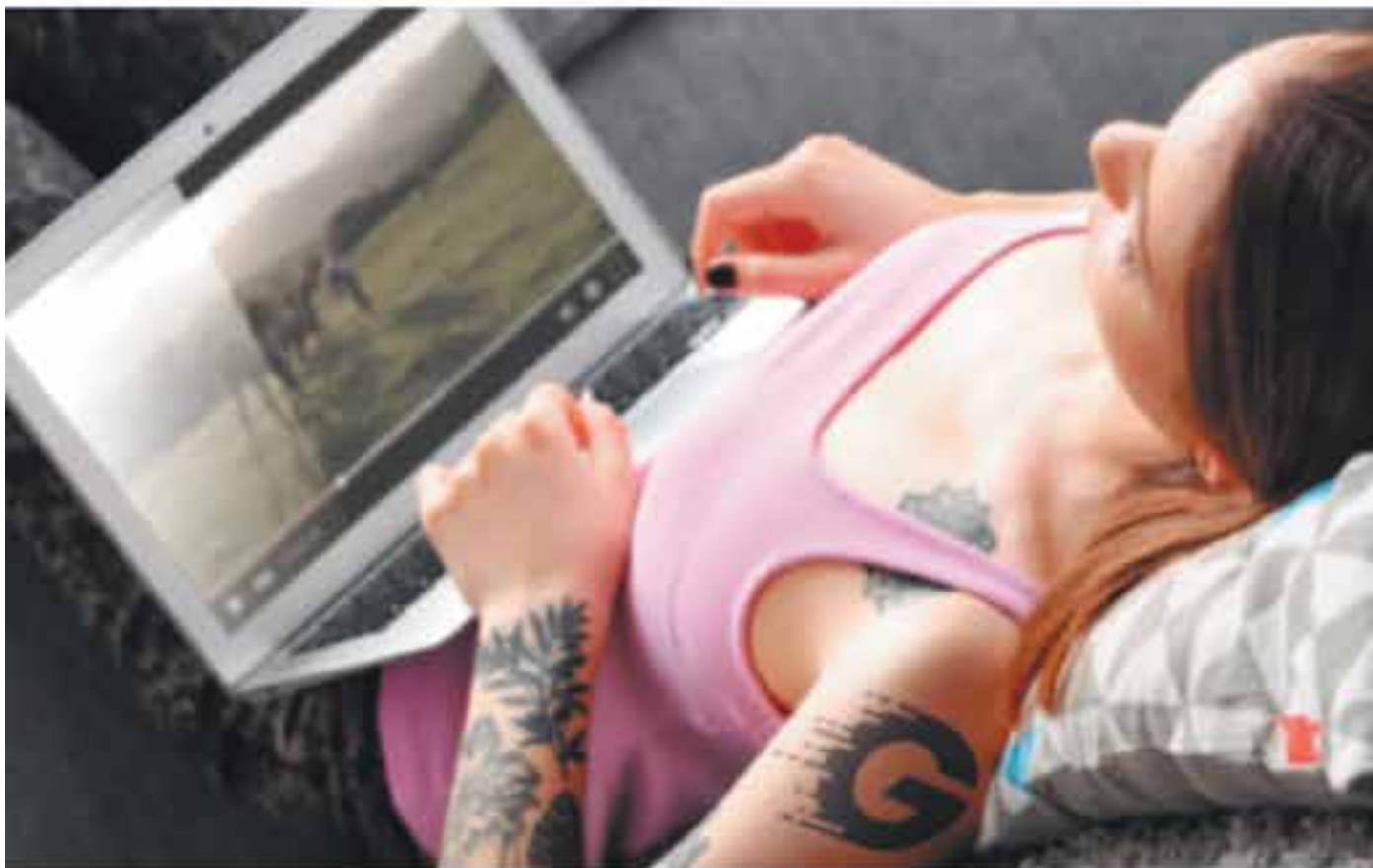
SO PATRONIZE THEM WHY DON'T YA?

EDITED BY RICH SMITH

You're devastated when your favorite bars, shops, and restaurants close. We know because we've read your 10-paragraph Facebook eulogies about how "necessary" and "vital" and "Seattle" you thought those places were. But maybe you should pay more attention to those businesses while they're still alive? Nobody pays the rent on the strength of their reputation, and it's actually FUN to unhook yourself from your Amazon Prime Now Premium Culture feeding tube and have an unmediated social experience every once in a while. Here are 50 of our favorite places to do just that. For the spots that seem endangered: Go to them. For the places that are doing just fine: Go on off nights. Otherwise, if and when they close up, don't let us catch you on social media publicly grieving a place you loooooooved but never found the time to throw your money at.



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The Pacific Inn is a mid-century lozenge of cheap, stiff drinks and above-par pub food. It's owned by the legendary "singing bartender," a classically trained opera singer who dazzled patrons with his voice while mixing drinks at Jake O'Shaughnessey's (RIP) who's now legendary in the industry for his excellent treatment of employees. There's a nice little patio, Gas Works Park is walking distance, and you might see something amazing like a woman ordering a bowl of malt vinegar with a milk back while ranting about lead, or elderly couples, queer and straight, having a Friday nightcap and fish and chips at the same institution that hosted their first date. SARAH GALVIN

Ristorante Machiavelli

1215 Pine St

Machiavelli is the most dependable and reassuring restaurant in Seattle—the service is always competent and confident, and the food always delicious and fast (except the chicken-liver lasagna, please allow 20 minutes for baking). The arrival of dinner is always punctuated by the arrival of a server making advances with a giant black-pepper grinder and silver dish of grated Parmesan cheese. The dining room is the sort of place where everyone feels at home, and, best of all, Machiavelli is affordable. (Pay with cash, and you get a 5 percent discount.) At my house, we call it "the people's date night." May it live forever. ANGELA GARBES

13 Coins

125 Boren Ave N, 900 Bellevue Way NE, 18000 International Blvd

It's possible that the contemporary gustatory zeitgeist has strayed from the pleasures of a massive steak smothered in pasta and heavy cream sauce soaked up by liberally buttered bread in the privacy of a tall-backed, darkly upholstered booth at 3 a.m. But that's because everyone who denies the glory of 13 Coins is a fool. It's a monument to a certain kind of decadent entitlement that harms no one (unless you count your own body). It's like the deluxe Scrabble game with the raised grid and swiveling board of diners. Three locations, open 24/7-infinity, if all goes well. SEAN NELSON

The Seattle Times

1000 Denny Way

Maybe there was a time, some fleeting moment in the early 20th century or so, when it made sense for reporters to be gleeful about the failures of competing local news outlets. It has never made sense to me. I believe that an informed citizenry cannot exist without beat reporters and experienced, dedicated editors. Not stringers. Not rock stars. Workers. In journalism. Full-time. *The Stranger* and the *Seattle Times* may appear to have little in common, but that's only if you're not looking behind the curtains. There's no love lost on many fronts, it's true. But, look, I subscribe to the *Seattle Times*. I amble out every morning to grab the dewy bag of democracy lying in my overgrown side yard, and you should, too. JEN GRAVES

Quarter Lounge

909 Madison St

According to the *Seattle Times*, Midwestern transplants make up around 11 percent of Seattle's population, the highest percentage of any city on the West Coast. The Quarter Lounge is the bar of this 11 percent. To walk inside and see corn dogs and frozen pizzas on offer; to overhear Kim talk about how hammered Jason got last night, to silently navigate the power dynamics of the



ROBERT ULLMAN

pool table, is to teleport to any local in Ohio, Missouri, or Michigan. The major difference: When you leave the lounge, you emerge into a city where rampant intolerance is at least generally looked down upon. RICH SMITH

Denny Blaine Park (aka Dykiki)

200 Lake Washington Blvd E

I will never forget the first time I stretched my naked body out near the shining lake at Dykiki. It was heaven, the island of Lesbos on Lake Washington, the one place in Seattle where nude queer girls made up a majority of souls on the beach. The last time I went to Dykiki, I looked around and realized that most of the bodies on the beach belonged to white men. Dudes: You can be naked and shirtless in lots of places. And while I encourage you to get down with body positivity and your bad self in the nude, *too many* cis men and not enough queer girls at Dykiki ruins the Lesbos vibe. Cis and trans ladies, let's get in formation. SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

That Parking Lot Next to My Apartment Building

Summit Ave and E Howell St

You know what I hate most about New Seattle? All these goddamn buildings. Fucking *capitalism*, you know? This parking lot at Summit and Howell is the perfect antidote to all that shiny, techy bullshit. It's surrounded by a pale salmon-colored wall (quirky!), and it's half-empty most of the time (like the good old days!). Inside, one wall reads in huge, Helvetica letters "NO TRESPASSING." The day this place is razed to make room for a new apartment building, I'm moving to Austin. HEIDI GROOVER

Rendezvous

2322 Second Ave

This is the old fucking Seattle about which old fucking Seattle residents yammer when the subject turns to old fucking Seattle. Now 90 years old, the Rendezvous oozes character and history. Its decadent glamour is holding on by a thread... as are

many of its well-lubricated regulars. (The pours be *strong* here.) While I've not eaten at the 'Vous since 2003, plenty of folks do and look happy doing so. I come for the entertainment (Comedy Womb, weird music shows in the Jewelbox Theater and the Grotto, like Alvarius B., Sun Araw, and Hans Grusel's Krankenkabinet), which always seems more momentous amid the Rendezvous's comfy confines and fading elegance. DAVE SEGAL

Sunday's Restaurant

620 First Ave N

One of the Northwest's finest and most distinctive restaurants resides in a handsome restored 1906 church. The memorable architecture is defined by a classic winding staircase, 12-foot-high gazebo, domed ceiling, fountain, and impeccable character. Located two blocks north of the Seattle Center in the Hansen Baking Company. In addition to award-winning lunch and dinner menus featuring "paperfish" and the West Coast's best "rack of lamb," Sunday's lounge offers a superb view of Seattle's glitter. Garden settings, stained glass, and excellent service are the perfect accouterments to enjoy casual or well-dressed dining. ARLO HOPSTASH

George's Sausage & Delicatessen

907 Madison St

I like any eatery that doesn't seem to like me that much. There are plenty of places that flatter you into believing you're part of the family, but George's is all business, which is an underrepresented sort of kindness in this town. After a few visits, you know exactly what to do. Order the pastrami sandwich. While you wait, consider buying some weird mustards or some bulky prepackaged poppy-seed deserts, then don't. Consider buying a fancy Polish beef jerky, then do. Collect all victuals and mosey over to the steps of St. James Cathedral. Enjoy the afternoon. RICH SMITH

Pony

1221 E Madison St

The only gay bar in Seattle with a fire pit also has the best gay-bar bartenders in town. And the best DJs, the best DIY shows, the best deck, and the best wallpaper. Plus, a photo booth. Plus, a glory hole. What more do you want? Go-go dancers? They have go-go dancers sometimes, too. So why is Pony so often empty? Seriously, get off your fucking smartphone app and go sit at Pony. It's one of the places that make this city great. Runner-up in the gay bar category? CC's on East Olive Way, where on the first Saturday of the month, people dress like freaks—or hardly dress at all—for kink night. CHRIS-TOPHER FRIZZELLE

Mashiko

4725 California Ave SW

I like a restaurant with rules, and Mashiko, the excellent West Seattle sushi restaurant devoted to using only sustainably sourced fish, certainly has a few rules. On its website there's an entire tab called "Obey," and among the enumerated terms of entry: "Music is chef's choice" and "Prices are subject to change based on customer's attitude." Given all of this, I've found it best to save up and order one of the omakase meals. Once one orders an omakase meal at Mashiko, the chef takes control, which I also like. It's a delight to spend an evening as merely an eager vessel into which your culinary boss stuffs his most special types of sashimi, sushi, fish eggs, and grilled fish "until," as the menu says, "you cannot eat another bite." ELI SANDERS

Hazlewood

2311 NW Market St

I can't fetishize the old-timey "dives" of old Ballard. (There are too many casually ►



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◀misogynistic alcoholics in my family line—yours?) And I fall dead inside the new-timey corporate cuteness of new Ballard. This is why I like Hazlewood. The place is odd. It's small, mostly standing room. The drinks are good, and the drinks are strong. The bartenders give off the air of people who will kick you out with a withering glance if they must, but I have never seen them actually break into hostility. A person who seems to need the place more than want it can still often be found seated at the bar. I appreciate the need, and the want. JEN GRAVES

Fort St. George

601 S King St, Suite 202

I love everything about this bar and, to be honest, I visit it about once a week to drink one or two glasses of white wine (usually two—sometimes three) and to eat a thing or two. The bartenders are the best and have excellent taste in music. The last time I was there, which was just a few days ago, I had the pleasure of listening to the local hip-hop classic “Connect For” by Common Market. I also heard “Da Two,” the last bumping jam by CL Smooth and Pete Rock, the founders of the sound that dominated the first half of the 1990s. If you have not been here in a bit, you should pay a visit. Fort St. George deserves your business. (Also, it is above Venus Karaoke.) CHARLES MUDEDE

Venus Karaoke

601 S King St, Suite 102

This is a cave. A gorgeous, deep, dark, neon-lit cave that contains several rooms for those who want to sing bad pop songs with their friends or alone. Venus Karaoke is the kind of place you would expect to find in the heart of a Wong Kar-wai film (*Chungking Express*, for example) and not in the heart of an average American city. Upon leaving Venus Karaoke after a solid session of eating, drinking, and singing, one always feels like they are about to walk out onto the streets of a megapolis of 20 million densely packed humans. One needs to be regularly refreshed by that big-city feeling. CHARLES MUDEDE

Monorail Espresso

520 Pike St

Someday we'll all get around on self-driving Solowheels and pay for coffee with chips implanted in our brains. But let's resist that time for a little longer. Monorail Espresso is a pedestrians- and cash-only venue. In a very Seattle act of passive aggression, they offer directions to tourists at a cost. (“Where is the Gum Wall?” \$2.) The espresso is good, and the staff has no time for your bullshit. HEIDI GROOVER

Starbucks

1912 Pike Place

When I first moved here from Los Angeles, I stumbled across a little coffee shop while

wandering through Pike's Place Market. Even though it's hard to find, it's worth the hunt. This charming, local spot has managed to keep its doors open in the outdoor market since 1971—which is saying something in this age of constant development—and their chipper baristas serve up perfectly roasted, no-frills cups of joe. You won't find coffee like it anywhere else. ANA SOFIA KNAUF



ROBERT ULLMAN

MacPherson's Fruit and Produce

4500 15th Ave S

The fruit and vegetables here are cheap, fresh, succulent, and delicious. Those are overused marketing words, I know, but I don't use them lightly. The MacPherson's staff are neighborhood people with actual personalities. Go there and you will not go back to the corporate grocery stores for produce. But the corner is changing. Expensive

new modern townhomes have gone up right across the street. I don't worry too much about MacPherson's becoming a victim of gentrification since they always seem busy, but better safe than sorry. ANSEL HERZ

Grand Illusion Cinema

1403 NE 50th St

Staffed by volunteers who are in it for the sheer love of and obsession with unconventional films, Grand Illusion is an underdog player in Seattle's cinema-scape that deserves unstinting devotion. Whether it's highbrow



foreign fare or a lowbrow domestic flick, Grand Illusion's curation—by Cleveland transplant Brian Alter—comes off like a scrappy adjunct of Scarecrow Video: the selections of deep nerds whose instincts you trust to bring the warped goods. GI is consistently astute with its music-oriented documentaries, too, and it sometimes doubles as a venue for left-field concerts with equally rewarding results. DAVE SEGAL

Amtrak to Portland

303 S Jackson St

I will admit that I stopped using Amtrak for trips to Portland and have switched to BoltBus, which is much cheaper. But the train is by far the most comfortable and romantic way to make this journey. Nothing beats a train when it comes to ground transportation. A bus is still on the road, and roads have no magic whatsoever (particularly the main one to Portland). Cutting costs always comes at a price. In the case of using BoltBus instead of Amtrak, the price is your daydreams. You always arrive in Portland with daydreams that are much poorer than the ones you would have had if you'd taken the train. I-5 is not for the lovers of dreams. CHARLES MUDEDE

Waterfall Garden Park

219 Second Ave S

When the western water wars come, Seattle probably won't have the luxury of a 22-foot waterfall tucked away in a corner of Pioneer Square. We'll need the water to sustain humans, farms, and fish—or hell, maybe we'll start bottling it and selling it to Los Angeles. The day Waterfall Garden Park runs dry will be a sad one for all of Seattle, due to the loss of that unnamable and sublime thing standing or sitting near abundant falling water does for the human consciousness. Make a point of visiting Waterfall Garden Park now, and then walk over to Ping's Dumpling House to grab a steamed bun. Whatever you do, definitely don't think about the future. Anything but that. SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

T-Bone's Hand Car Wash

2715 E Cherry St

These days, it's easy enough to drive through an automated car wash or get your car washed on the internet. And so the art (and business) of hand car washing—done by slow, steady hands guided by meticulous, loving eyes—marches toward oblivion. Thankfully, T-Bone's Hand Car Wash at the corner of MLK and Cherry lives on. Central District institutions like Catfish Corner, located just across the street from T-Bone's have gone, but the men of T-Bone's, always ready with a wave and hello, stand sentinel, both witnessing and resisting change. ANGELA GARBES

Left Bank Books

92 Pike St, Suite B

Left Bank Books is the quintessential anarchist bookstore—a small two-floor bungalow stuffed to the brim with anticapitalist tomes, anarchist fiction, political magazines, zines, pins, guides for vegans, and punk cashiers. When I moved away from Seattle years ago, I desperately missed home—and during my short visits, I would always make a point of stopping by Left Bank. I would ►

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◀head up to the cozy wooden nook that overlooks Pike Place Market, sit next to the window, and just read. ANSEL HERZ

The Scarecrow Project

5030 Roosevelt Way NE

From its humble beginnings as simply the world's best video store (when there was one on every block), Scarecrow has become one of the last—which is why it survives despite changing times. Every time your Netflix signal buffers, or you're in line to get some Redbox garbage, or you're watching *Star Wars* on your fucking phone, I urge you to consider: (1) how much worse all this convenience actually makes your life, and (2) how lucky we all are that this cathedral of movie worship (and Stranger Genius Award winner) remains open for business. SEAN NELSON

Lenny's Produce

10410 Greenwood Ave N, Suite C

This is the place I turn to for the ingredients needed to make my lola's ginataan or her famous pancit. The small market stocks my favorite brand of coconut milk, canned jackfruit, and rice noodles, right alongside shelves of Russian tea cookies and smoked fish and Latin spices and soup mixes. Lenny's has your run-of-the-mill tomatoes and greens, too, but for cheap. A good amount of the store's produce is locally grown—some even organic, if that's your shtick—for non-Whole Foods prices. Even if you fill your shopping basket to the brim with pantry staples, you would rarely leave Lenny's with more than a \$15 grocery bill. ANA SOFIA KNAUF

Open Books

2414 N 45th St

That a poetry-only bookstore exists in the first place is a testament to the strength of the literary communities we have in Seattle. That it's been so well stocked is a testament to its former owners, John and Christine, who ran the store for 28-plus years. You can find almost everything in that little shop, from first-edition stuff to zines and chapbooks and magazines. To my knowledge, the store is in no danger of closing, and the new owner, Billie Swift, has plans to hold more readings in the space. Go enjoy them. RICH SMITH

Hothouse Spa & Sauna

1019 E Pike St

Hothouse is warm and inviting and relaxing and underground and small and only for you. Only for you if you are a woman, that is, with a few dollars and a few minutes. There's a big hot tub, and dry and steam saunas, and a place to take a naplet. There's a cold plunge in the form of a shower that dumps frigidness onto your head when you pull a lever. There is no talking, only whispering, and if you break this rule, you will be scolded, which is kind of fun and funny, and then you can return to being quiet, because after all, you came here to get quieter, to get away. JEN GRAVES

The Hideout

1005 Boren Ave

Seattle doesn't have enough dark bars. I don't mean *dim* bars. I mean *dark*. The kind of bars you're looking for when you're both sick of everyone on earth and interested in staring at strangers without them noticing. The Hideout is a perfectly dark bar. The walls are covered in art, and a vending machine sells art too. The location is just out of the way enough to skip the Capitol Hill crowd. It's also just close enough to Eighth and Seneca to get tipsy before you and your KUOW tote bag wander over to an author reading at Town Hall. HEIDI GROOVER

Highline

210 Broadway E

Highline is Seattle's preeminent spot to

get vegan comfort food and tinnitus. It's the only place where you can consume sandwiches like the Weedeater (marinated portobello mushroom cutlets), soy fish tacos, gluten-free poutine, and drink cocktails named after the world's heaviest rock groups... *and* hear some of the world's foremost death-metal bands (and, oddly, Australian electro-pranksters Severed Heads). That kind of versatility and range is rare in this city's nightlife. You should treasure it before some rich asshole decides to tear down the building and erect a nondescript box for people of exceedingly bland cultural proclivities. DAVE SEGAL

Ambrosia Cafe

619 S King St

When my friends and I trek to Jade Garden to gorge ourselves on dim sum, we always make room for post-dumpling bubble tea. Ambrosia, which is tucked between a hotel and a florist in the heart of the International District, became our favorite stop. The bubble tea shop, which also serves frosty taro shakes and \$1 toast, introduced me to the wonder that is *hot* bubble tea. Warm jasmine green tea with milk transforms otherwise strangely dense tapioca balls into pleasantly gooey bubbles that don't leave your jaw hurting. ANA SOFIA KNAUF

Katsu Burger

6538 Fourth Ave S

Katsu Burger, the unassuming home of the towering Mt. Fuji burger, gave us all a scare a few years ago when the owner announced its closure. But Stephanie Kang, who bought the place, told *The Stranger* she "could not let the legend go down in history." Go there, order the Mt. Fuji burger (you'll want to share among yourselves), and you will understand what she means. Because it is tucked away in a strip mall in Georgetown, Katsu Burger does not get the love it deserves, and I often fret over its future. ANSEL HERZ

Admiral Theater

2343 California Ave SW

Last year, the Admiral Theater looked like it might expire at any moment—a depressing vibe for one of Seattle's few remaining neighborhood movie houses to be giving off. But it recently got a big makeover, which means the days of falling ceiling tiles and garbage-bag-covered seats are over! (We hope.) Also, the 1940s-era nautical-themed decor is still in effect and it is A+. ELI SANDERS

Wall of Sound

1205 E Pike St, Suite 1C

No local retail establishment means more to me—and many other music aficionados—than Wall of Sound. This tiny indie record store carries more important music per square inch than any other Seattle shop of its kind. That it's survived for 25 years while hundreds of other music retailers nationwide have folded over that time testifies to Wall of Sound's profound knowledge of its niche (great obscure music from many genres and countries), excellent aesthetics, and savvy customer service. Similarly, vinyl and video-game peddler Spin Cycle (321 Broadway E) has found viability on a coveted strip of Capitol Hill real estate while catering to refined tastes. Let's hear it for the odds-defiers! DAVE SEGAL

Baranof

8549 Greenwood Ave N

The food at Greenwood's Baranof is the best kind of greasy diner fare, and much of it is made from scratch. But what you're really here for is the slightly ramshackle, hodgepodge, nautical-themed bar, where the sign by the entrance promises "Hot beer, lousy food, and bad service." Stiff drinks are poured by salty, wonderful older women who stand under a sign that reads "Warning: Bitch Bites." Karaoke happens six nights a week; Jell-O ►

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The University of Washington English Department

Padelford Hall, UW Campus

Universities across the country are suffering budget cuts from the very states emblazoned across their buildings. Despite this, University of Washington perseveres, teaching 6,500 kids a year not what to think and write but how to think and write, and they do it well. They run genius creative-writing programs, and they house some of the best literary scholars in the country. They host readings and seminars for the public all the time. Go to them. They're a force against the ignorance, intolerance, and intellectual weakness threatening to overrun the country. RICH SMITH

Bulldog News

4208 University Way NE

Bulldog News, founded in 1983, carries a selection of hundreds of magazines and newspapers unlike any I've ever seen: American, African, Asian, European, international, large and small, famous and obscure. It represents the last vestige of what was once a thriving regional chain of newsstands. And it is not unchanging: With the recent addition of a parklet (a mini-park with chairs and tables) outside, it has become a delightful place to spend an afternoon. Bulldog is where you go to browse: to escape the algorithms of Facebook that serve you whatever confirms your own biases, to become an informed citizen of the world. ANSEL HERZ

Thai Tom

4543 University Way NE

There's nothing as exciting as sitting at the counter at Thai Tom and almost having your eyebrows burned off by the great gusts of fire that sometimes launch out of cookery. The way the cooks sling vegetables and noodles and protein leaves specks on the wall. The food is insanely delicious, somewhat singed, as spicy as you want it, and cheap. The atmosphere is cramped and exciting and can't be beat. If this place ever disappears, I'm going to create a Change.org petition, which always solves everything. CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

Cafe Munir

2408 NW 80th St

This small Lebanese restaurant's claim to authenticity is necessarily mediated. Yet its quotient of Lebanese to not-Lebanese seems correct to people who know such things. I know that my children long for its lamb cigars coated in powdered sugar. I know that when Lebanese chefs are left to their own devices, as they are every Sunday night when dinner is prix fixe, they create a parade of small plates of food that arrive unbidden but welcome. I know that the whisky of the week is a bit of idiosyncrasy I always look forward to. I have no reason to believe that Cafe Munir is endangered. It's often busy. It's just that if Cafe Munir were no more, I wouldn't know of a single thing like it in the city. JEN GRAVES

Wildrose

1021 E Pike St

It's insane that there is only one lesbian bar in the heart of the gayborhood. Nevertheless, the Wildrose is still the purest of lesbian bars, despite the fact that its dance floor and barstools are not always filled. If you're ever feeling lonely living in a city full of out-and-proud gay men and elusive gay women, the Wildrose is still an excellent place to grab a whiskey and talk to the cute bartenders about Sandra Bullock movies. I still make a



ROBERT ULLMAN

point of stopping by the Wildrose every now and again, just to be comforted by the knowledge that there is at least one place that proudly celebrates the L in LGBTQ. SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

The 5 Point Cafe

415 Cedar St

The opportunity to pee into some ice on the floor in the men's restroom is not the only charm of the oldest bar in Belltown. There's often shoofly pie, courtesy of longtime employee Kate. Plus, the 5 Point is one of the few places in Seattle that serves a meaningful glass of whiskey and an inoffensive lager for less than \$6. Their sandwiches are whatever, but you're drunk anyway, right? Go in summer and from the patio watch the tourists roam around the Space Needle; go in winter and weep onto the black-and-white checkered floor. RICH SMITH

Glass Box Gallery, The Alice

831 Seattle Blvd S, 6007 12th Ave S

Glass Box and the Alice are both relatively new. Founded by Weston Jandacka, Glass Box gives smart and varied artists the full treatment, featuring them in solo or two-person shows. This is where Rob Rhee presented his twisted-flesh gourds, where No Touching Ground planted a proud portrait of 89-year-old Seattle activist Dorli Rainey, and where writer/photographer/sculptor Maggie Carson Romano first examined the fresh pain of an identity-altering accident that changed the appearance of her own face. The Alice, in Georgetown, is a rigorous curatorial collective run by four artists, all women, who bring together groups of artists, writers, and thinkers through exhibitions, residencies, and talks and events. The Alice is named after a smelly, dirty pool that's a ritual fraternity dumping ground, but which is held out to newbies as a desirable woman. More details on this fairly fantastic metaphor are linked on the gallery's website. (Plus, do not skip the other small, solid galleries in the same building: Sharon Arnold's Bridge Productions and Julia Greenway's Interstitial.) JEN GRAVES

Cafe Selam

2715 E Cherry St

It's raining. You're hungover. There's nothing in your fridge but shredded cheese and soy sauce. Get out of there. Find Cafe Selam, a bright, cozy Ethiopian spot next to an auto-repair shop in the Central District.

Bring the newspaper or a good book. Order the ful, a mango juice, and coffee. You can be productive tomorrow. HEIDI GROOVER

Fou Lee Market

2050 S Columbian Way

For Beacon Hill residents—especially Filipinos—Fou Lee is as necessary as oxygen. Boiled peanuts by the pound? Check. Ampalaya? Check. Gina brand mango juice? Skyflakes crackers? Rufina patis? Special bi-hon noodles? Checkout line clusterfuck with people pshhhhhhhhting and yelling in Tagalog like they're your family? Fou Lee's got you covered. Don't even get me started on the hot to-go deli with ukoy, grilled pusit, beef caldereta, and more—nearly all of which is available in bulk through the store's catering menu. Who you gonna call when you need a platter of 200 lumpia for your party tomorrow? You already know. ANGELA GARBES

Ly's Donuts

4336 Roosevelt Way NE

This is an underrated University District gem. The 24-hour shop is frequented by morning commuters, sleep-deprived students, and munchies-afflicted bar-hoppers looking for Ly's unpretentious classic doughnuts. As a UW student, Ly's was just a drunk stumble away from my apartment. It was dangerous, always delicious, and never cost me more than \$4. An elderly gentleman, who I always assumed was Mr. Ly himself, was behind the 24-hour bakery's counter whenever I visited. As though he could sense my exam anxiety or homesickness, Mr. Ly always threw in some free munchkins (his name for doughnut holes) along with my cream-filled doughnut and sugar twist. ANA SOFIA KNAUF

In the Bowl

1554 E Olive Way

It's tiny and has no real atmosphere, nor art on the walls, and one of the servers—probably the owner—is brusque and devoid of patience, but, damn it, In the Bowl is something of a lifesaver for Seattle vegans. The food comes fast, flavorful, and reasonably priced, if a bit greasy, and no matter what you order (fake meats, stir-fries, noodle dishes, soups, mountains of tofu, etc.), you can leave with your belly full and your conscience clear. Oddly, the bathroom is more lavishly decorated than the dining room; it's kind of a new age paradise. DAVE SEGAL

Lake Chad Cafe

1712 S Jackson St

Lake Chad Cafe is the spiritual successor to Waid's—the off-the-wall, eclectic Haitian Central District nightclub that shut down a few years ago after years of official harassment. Even so, owner Felix Ngoussou, originally from Chad, will welcome you in with a grin. Waid's was a haven for all black people, immigrants, hippies, and rebels. When Manny Pacquiao fought Floyd Mayweather last year, I went to Lake Chad Cafe and found the same kind of group crammed into the cafe's upper room watching the fight on a makeshift laptop-projector setup. Lake Chad Cafe is a precarious treasure. ANSEL HERZ

Hollow Earth Radio

2018 E Union St, hollowearthradio.org

The only internet radio station to merit a Stranger Genius Award nomination (so far), Hollow Earth Radio is a magnet for Seattle's most inquisitive music and social-activist freaks to air their sonic predilections and political views. Its DJs rank among the most knowledgeable in the region, and the sheer diversity of HER's programming puts most other outlets to shame. (I'm listening to the show *Alone in the Woods* now, and its pastoral rock and folk beauty is exquisite.) Besides this great service, the station is working on infrastructure to broadcast terrestrially (as KHUH, 100.3 FM) and is often hosting adventurous live music acts. DAVE SEGAL

Sundance Cinemas

4500 Ninth Ave NE

Don't you wish there were a movie theater with a full bar? Oh wait, there is! Don't you wish a movie theater would serve better dinner fare than, like, hot dogs? Oh wait, one does! Don't you wish you could select your seats in advance so you didn't have to do a mad dash for an aisle seat? Oh wait, you can! Sundance Cinemas lets you choose your seats when you buy your ticket (which you do in advance at sundancecinemas.com), and there's no silly rule about drinking your booze in some godforsaken corral in the middle of the lobby. You can take your drink all the way to your seat, like a civilized person. And the seats are big and comfy. CHRISTOPHER FRIZZLE

Mediterranean Express

1417 Broadway

Small and unpretentious, Mediterranean Express is the only inexpensive yet quality Middle Eastern eatery on Capitol Hill. (I need to ascend a couple of tax brackets before I can afford Mamnoon.) This is a sorry state of affairs for a Detroit-born dude of Syrian descent, so I'll take what I can get. Granted, Mediterranean Express's menu is standard, but it does the old standbys with a freshness and an efficiency that are ideal for people on strict budgets and deadlines. Middle Eastern joints rule because they cater to vegans like me without having to try too hard, and Mediterranean Express fills my baba ghanoush-loving heart with unequivocal joy. DAVE SEGAL

The Slug Hole

Buried beneath Linda's on Pine

A BYOB DIY dive that used to be an auto shop that used to be a patch of grass. Decent tomato soup, but the spoons are locked up at night so the junkies don't use them to shoot up in the alley. Half of Alice Wheeler's photos were taken in the bathroom. Many still remain on the walls. It's the last place Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love were seen wearing pained and stunned expressions, the first place Morris Graves scratched out a bird on a bathroom wall, and the birthplace of never truly knowing anyone at all. If the Slug Hole goes, so goes Seattle. RICH SMITH

H. AND. We probably missed some places that you love. And guess what? You can help us fix that! To make this noncomprehensive list a little more comprehensive, just search for this article at thestranger.com. There you will find a box where you can submit a 100-word ode to that special place you want to see survive. We'll review your entry, edit it for clarity, and add it to the bottom of the piece at our discretion.



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A black and white photograph of a woman with long dark hair, looking directly at the camera. Her hand is raised near her chin, with a blue ring on her finger. The background is dark and out of focus.

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SAVAGE LOVE

Identity Cards **BY DAN SAVAGE**

I am a 40-year-old woman; I came out when I was 16. When I was 17, I met M and we dated for eight years. M was a horrible human being—emotionally and occasionally physically abusive. M still sends me the occasional (creepy) e-mail, wishing me a happy birthday or giving me updates on people I don't really recall. I don't respond. A few years back, I got an e-mail saying that M was now "Mike." I think it's important to use the pronouns people want you to use for them. But Mike wasn't Mike when he was in my life. Changing his pronoun when describing him feels like I'm changing my identity—my first real long-term relationship was with someone I thought was a woman. Mike caused a lot of damage in my life—does he get to fuck up (or complicate) my identity, too? It's not like the subject of Mike comes up daily. When it does, I feel like a liar if I use "she," using "he" makes me feel like I'm lying about myself, and stopping to explain everything derails the conversation. And it's not like I'm being a great trans ally when a conversation gets sidelined by something like: "Well, random coworker whose only trans reference is Caitlyn Jenner, my ex is trans and he's a psychopath."

Mike's Hard Lemonade



JOE NEWTON

threesome. She understands that I have a high libido and mostly she doesn't. Our sex life is loving and good mostly, but I do want more. There have been discussions on opening up our relationship—but essentially I want to and she is resistant. I want to do this with transparency and with men (mostly), but I don't feel this is realistic emotionally for her given some conflict we've had over this issue. Is cheating the only answer here?

Never Overly Terrified

I can see how it might be emotionally tricky for a recently transitioned trans woman—that would be your wife—to cheerfully sign off on her second wife sleeping with men (mostly) and with transparency (ethically). But if you absolutely, positively can't commit to sleeping with only her for the rest of your life, NOT, and you can't get her permission to sleep with others... then, yes, there's cheating. There's also fantasy, masturbation, repression, sublimation, self-sacrifice—and divorce.

I'm a queer woman. When I entered my 30s, I realized that I was more queer/bi than I had previously allowed myself to be, and I started exploring my attraction to cis heterosexual men. Five years later, and I'm in an incredible GGG relationship with a cis het male. He's everything I have ever wanted in a partner: sexy, funny, feminist, and smart. We have full disclosure about sexuality and kinks, no complaints there. What I do have trouble with is navigating his family and friends, twin social circles composed of heterosexuals who fall into stereotypical gender roles. I spent my teens and 20s fully submersed in queer/trans circles with like-minded feminist hippies who are not hung up on the gender binary. My partner's friends are fundamentally good people, but they see nothing wrong with "old fashioned" misogyny. I am often interrupted, talked over, and "mansplained" by my partner's male friends. And while I am a pretty friendly person, I can't get a foot in the door with the women in his friend circle. My notions on feminism and equality are way too out there, so I tend to keep to myself in a corner during parties in order to avoid starting an argument. How do I navigate this weird heterosexual world that I don't understand? I've tried to explain my feelings to my partner, but I think he has a hard time relating, as he is a heterosexual cis male and was raised as one. How do I keep from losing my cool when someone starts to mansplain to me? I may be in a heterosexual romantic partnership, but I am still a queer lady at heart.

Bi Lefty Encounters Cis Hets

Some people "fall into stereotypical gender roles" because that's who they are, BLECH, and what you perceive as the thoughtless embrace of the gender binary can in some cases be an authentic expression of gender identity. That doesn't excuse misogyny and mansplaining, of course, but not everyone who embraces seemingly stereotypical gender roles is a dupe who needs a good talking to from the new queer girlfriend of an old straight friend.

That said, if going to parties with your cis het boyfriend's gender-normative friends makes you miserable... don't go to those parties. Or if you must go, drag along a leftist-hippie-queer friend who can sit in the corner with you and marvel at the mansplaining manmuggles and their clueless lady friends who aren't interested in your thoughts on feminism and equality. ■

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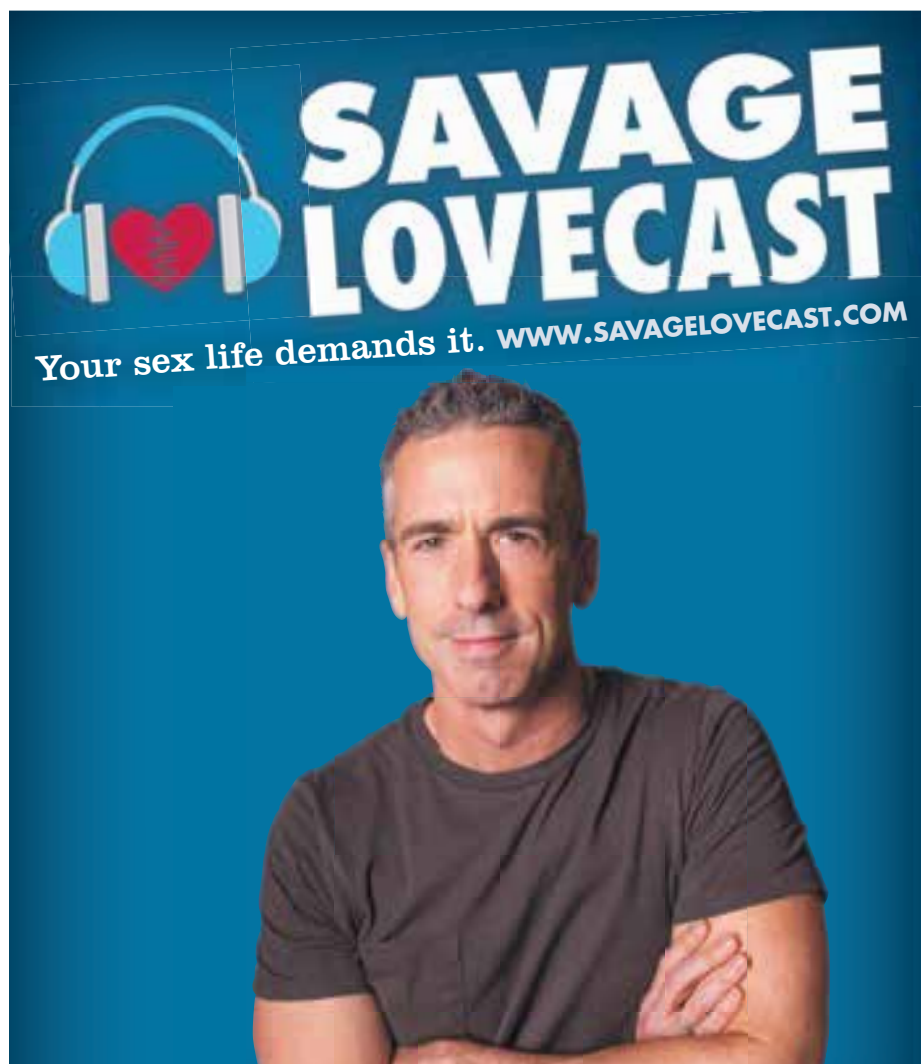
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Block Mike's number, block his e-mail address, block him on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Periscope, Kik, Fuck-Stick, WhatsApp, CumDump, etc., etc., ad infinitum.

And stop talking about Mike—don't discuss him with random coworkers, casual acquaintances, or friends. If you absolutely, positively must discuss him with someone—a true intimate with a right to your relationship history, who needs to be sensitive to the abuse you suffered—you can be a good ally to other trans people (not your abusive trans ex) by carefully using nouns and descriptors in place of your asshole ex's preferred pronouns. So instead of "I met him when I was still a teenager," you say, "I met the abusive piece of shit when I was still a teenager." Instead of "It took me eight long years to get away from him," you say, "It took me eight long years to get away from that asshole psychopath."

What I'm gonna say next will get me slammed on Twitter (heavens), MHL, but I've learned not to read my @s, so here we go...

If using male pronouns when referring to your ex is gonna complicate your life—really complicate it—if the "transitioned later" part is likely to get dropped during a game of inter-office telephone, if the qualifier about your ex having identified as a woman while you were together is likely to get dropped too, and if either of those drops could lead coworkers or casual acquaintances to assume something about you that isn't true, i.e., that you're into dudes and therefore gettable by dudes, and if that erroneous assumption could result in your having to deflect awkward and/or unpleasant advances from confused males, or if having your status as a Gold Star Lesbian questioned could induce orientational dysphoria... I don't see the nontheoretical harm in you—and only you—misgendering Mike on the rare occasion when a convo about him can't be avoided. You don't live near him, no one you know knows him, and the misgendering is unlikely to get back to him. The adage "no harm, no foul" applies here.

But it would be simpler, easier, and ally-ier if you sidestepped the issue by not speaking to anyone about your asshole ex ever again.

I am a fortysomething bi woman happily married to a newly transitioned 50ish trans woman. I have a history of putting myself about a bit (safely) before our relationship, but we have been monogamous since we met (except for a disastrous threesome). My wife hasn't put herself about and has slept with only myself and one other to whom she was also married—and that

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Peaches Christ presents
SINEMA: A Drag and Burlesque
Tribute to Horror
Part of Crypticon, May 27–29 at Seattle
Airport Hilton and Conference Center

QUEER

Peaches Christ Presents *SINEMA: A Drag and Burlesque Tribute to Cult Horror Films*

DON'T MISS San Francisco and Seattle are like the twin girls in *The Shining*: weird enough on their own but downright unsettling when they're together—as they should be. San Francisco's queen of frights, Peaches Christ, teams up with our very own Mama Tits for a drag and burlesque tribute to cult horror films, accompanied by a rogue's gallery of acclaimed talent: Cheridonna, Faggoty Randy, Isabella Extynn, Ruby Bouche, Sparkle Leigh, Elwood Fluz, and many more. Expect a sexy, scary bloodbath at Friday night's show, and then keep that vibe going all weekend long at Crypticon, Seattle's annual gathering of the macabre. (Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center, Fri May 27, 7 pm, \$20–\$235 for Crypticon pass) **MATT BAUME**

We also recommend...

Miss Bacon Strip: Theatre Off Jackson, Sat May 28, 9 pm, \$15, 21+

Mimosas with Mama: Unicorn, Sun May 29, 1 pm, \$25, 21+

Stiffed! Memorial Day Weekend Tea Dance: Kremwerk, Sun May 29, 4–9 pm, free

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FESTIVALS

Sasquatch!

DON'T MISS Festivals are optimal memory-makers beyond the entertainment on offer, and if it's an outdoor affair, multiply that effect by two. Hence, Sasquatch!—held over Memorial Day weekend at the resplendent Gorge Amphitheatre—draws huge crowds no matter who's onstage. This year's comedy bill looks righteous, with the off-kilter observations of Moshe Kasher, Todd Barry, Natasha Leggero, and Tim Heidecker. Musically, you should prioritize high-IQ electronic troubadours Grimes and Julia Holter, rock goddesses Savages, brainy dance-music composers Caribou and Four Tet, garage-rock gurus Ty Segall & the Muggers, psychedelics King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, and jazzy hip-hop bohos Digable Planets. Oh, and the Cure. (Gorge Amphitheatre, May 27–30) **DAVE SEGAL**

We also recommend...

Crypticon: Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel, May 27–29, \$20–\$235

Seattle International Film Festival: Various locations, through June 12

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

READINGS & TALKS

Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman with Lindy West

DON'T MISS Lindy West got her start at this newspaper, where she wrote some of the all-time funniest pieces of writing *The Stranger* has ever published. In the years since, she has gone on to write for Jezebel, the *Guardian*, and *GQ*, contribute to *This American Life*, and publish a memoir, *Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman*. The memoir is structured like a book of essays, and it's packed with hilarious sentences like “Lives don't actually have coherent, linear story arcs, but if I had to retroactively tease one essential narrative out of mine, it'd be my transformation from a terror-stricken mouse-person to an unflappable human

vuvuzela.” Tonight's event is sold out online (although standby tickets may be available), but you can also see Lindy at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park tomorrow night at 7 pm. (Town Hall, Wed May 25, 6:30 pm, \$5, standby) **CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE**

We also recommend...

Geoff Dyer with David Shields: Traveling for a Purpose: Town Hall, Thurs May 26, 7:30 pm, \$5

Mark Kurlansky: Why Paper is Here to Stay: Town Hall, Fri May 27, 7:30 pm, \$5

William Finnegan: Elliott Bay Book Company, Wed May 25, 7 pm, free

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FOOD & DRINK

Hood Canal Shrimpfest

DON'T MISS The three-day Memorial Day weekend is a great time to get the hell out of town. The holiday also happens to fall during Washington's marvelous but short spot-prawn season, when people fish for the lovely pink shellfish known for their impossibly delicate, sweet meat. The Hood Canal ShrimpFest is a perfect excuse to head out—you can buy fresh spot prawns and harvest your own clams and oysters on the public beaches (be sure to pick up a license on your way out of town). Also on the agenda: arts and crafts booths, activities for kids, and belt-sander races (!!!). (251 Hjelvicks Road, Brinnon, Sat May 28, 10 am–6 pm, Sun May 29, 10 am–5 pm, \$5) **ANGELA GARBES**

We also recommend...

May Is for Morels: Urbanata, Sat May 28, 6:30–9:30 pm, \$95

Reduce the Suffering of Nicaragua's Sugar Cane Workers: A Fundraiser for PASE: Nectar, Wed May 25, 5 pm, \$20

Snouts & Stouts with Odin Brewing: Little Water Cantina, Sun May 29, 5 pm, \$17

Yalla Pop-Up: Marjorie, Mon May 30, \$50, ongoing

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FILM

Checks and Balances

DON'T MISS The best film in the Seattle International Film Festival's 2014 African Pictures section was certainly Merzak Al-louache's *The Rooftops*. This year, it just might be Malek Bensmail's *Checks and Balances*. Both are set in the beautiful seaside city of Algiers, Algeria's capital. *The Rooftops*, however, is a feature film, and *Checks and Balances* is not. It is instead an impressively crafted documentary about *El Watan*, a French-speaking pro-democracy newspaper. We get to see the reporters argue about their beliefs, editors plan for

Continued ►

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A modern-day Latin American exploration of Lorca's classic tale *The House of Bernarda Alba*. At once tragic and darkly comedic, *Bernie's Apt.* offers a unique perspective into social factors that cause some contemporary women to feel trapped.

Endangered Species Project
JUN 13
Explore the great plays you seldom see. ESP dips into the theatrical canon to give voice to neglected plays which otherwise would be sitting silent on the bookshelf. June features *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* by Lonne Elder II.

Ceremonies in Dark Old Men

Sandbox Radio LIVE!
JUN 6
Sandbox Radio returns for their all new episode, *The Bridal Issue*, the latest installment of the locally grown variety show that combines music, storytelling, and the city's best performers ... recorded live.

Things You Can Do
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Image: *Monsoon Suit* by Don Fels, courtesy of the artist.



THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

issues, and editorial meetings where the day's events are analyzed and opinions exchanged. Everyone who works for a newspaper in Seattle should see this documentary. It will give us all some much-needed perspective. (*SIFF Cinema Uptown, Mon May 30, 6 pm, \$13*) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

We also recommend...

Belladonna of Sadness: Northwest Film Forum, May 25-26, 8 pm, \$11

A Bigger Splash: Various locations

Dead Slow Ahead: SIFF Film Center, Sat May 28, 9 pm, \$13

The Girl Who Saved My Life: SIFF Film Center, Sun May 29, 7 pm, \$13

Home Care: Majestic Bay Cinemas, Thurs May 26, 4:15 pm, \$11, Lincoln Square Cinemas, Tues May 31, 6:30 pm, \$13

The Meddler: Various locations

The Nice Guys: Various locations

Sonita: SIFF Cinema Uptown, Thurs May 26, 6:30 pm, \$13, Lincoln Square Cinemas, Sat May 28, 1 pm, \$11

Uncle Howard: SIFF Cinema Egyptian, Wed May 25, 9:30 pm, \$13, SIFF Cinema Uptown, Thurs May 26, 3 pm, \$11

Warehoused: Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, Sat May 28, 3:30 pm, \$13

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

PERFORMANCE

Bernie's Apt.

DON'T MISS Rose Cano's *Bernie's Apt.* is a moving portrait of urban, immigrant Latina women and girls struggling to keep a family together and earn a living in the United States, presented by ACTLab and eSe Teatro. The motivations of the characters are a little messy, mostly because the world they inhabit is messy. The poverty traps these characters try to dodge include stressing out from overwork, caring for others who no one else will care for to the point of needing care, constantly thinking of starting new businesses but not being able to save enough money to do so, dealing with abuse at the hands of men, and, of course, trying to overcome past, current, and potential trauma. The pile-on of problems in *Bernie's Apt.* doesn't produce a what's-gonna-happen-next dramatic tension. Instead, the structure reveals how a paycheck-to-paycheck extended family absorbs and deflects the indignities that such a family endures in the public sphere. As with all domestic dramas, the more emotionally resonant and complex tensions happen not onstage but within the conscience of audience members. (*ACT Theatre, through May 28, 7:30 pm, \$30*) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

Caught: Seattle Public Theater at the Bathhouse, Thurs-Sun, \$17-\$34, through June 12

Comedy Bang! Bang! Live: Moore Theatre, Wed May 25, 8 pm, \$32.50

Eat The Rich: A Grotesque Gorlesque Motorhead Tribute Fundraiser: Slim's Last Chance, Fri May 27, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

Stick Fly: Intiman Theatre Festival at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, Wed-Sun, \$20-\$40, through June 19

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

ART

Women on the Brink

DON'T MISS Filmmaker Tracy Rector organized this group show of installation, film,

photography, music, and writing by women artists—often artists who have been making work in private for a long time and needed somebody to tell them how good it was. You will see drums hand-stretched and masterfully painted by Margie Morris (Tlingit), Melissa Ponder's iconic photographic portraits, Eliaichi Kimaro's encaustic paintings breathing with life, plus wall paintings, films, and Rector's own contribution, red butterflies she's stenciling across Capitol Hill. Wherever one appears, that's a place where a woman was raped or murdered. Across this show, Rector makes visible what's already there, sometimes painfully, sometimes triumphantly. (*Vermillion, Tues-Sat, free, through June 4*) **JEN GRAVES**

We also recommend...

MUSEUMS

The Brink: Jason Hirata: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through June 26

Journey to Dunhuang: Buddhist Art of the Silk Road Caves: Asian Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$9, through June 12

Martha Rosler: Below the Surface: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$20, through July 4

Mood Indigo: Textiles From Around the World: Asian Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$9, through Oct 9

Northwest Art Now @ TAM: Tacoma Art Museum, Tues-Sun, \$14, through Sept 4

Paul McCarthy: White Snow, Wood Sculptures: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through Sept 11

Posing Beauty in African American Culture: Northwest African American Museum, Wed-Sun, \$7, through Sept 4

Young Blood: Frye Art Museum, Tues-Sun, free, through June 19

GALLERIES

Andrea Joyce Heimer & Justin Dufus: Linda Hodges Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through May 28

Brandon Aleson: New Work: Punch Gallery, Thurs-Sat, free, through May 28

Gala Bent: G. Gibson Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through June 11

Imagined Futures: Science Fiction, Art, and Artifacts from the Paul G. Allen Family Collection: Pivot Art + Culture, Tues-Sun, \$5, through July 10

JuarezX: Dragged Across Borders: CoCA PS35, Thurs-Sat, free, through May 28

Julie Alpert: Bridge Productions, Wed-Sat, free, through June 4

Klara Glosova: Caddy Shack: Glass Box Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through May 28

Like Mother: Magnuson Park Gallery, Thurs-Sat, free, through May 28

Nathan DiPietro: Artificial Worlds: Woodside/Braseth Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through May 31

Patte Loper: From There to Here: Platform Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through June 18

Patte Loper: Seeking Higher Ground: Suyama Space, Mon-Fri, free, through Aug 19

Patti Warashina: Thinking Clearly: Abmeyer + Wood, Mon-Sat, free, through May 31

Riffs: Photographic Center Northwest, Sat-Thurs, free, through June 15

Yoona Lee: Run Race Ragged: Three Takes on Racial Politics in America: Ghost Gallery, Tues-Sun, free, through June 5

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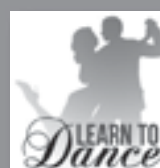
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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

Noteworthy Shows This Week

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WEDNESDAY 5/25

LSD and the Search for God, Kingdom of the Holy Sun

(Lo-Fi) If you're a San Francisco band called LSD and the Search for God, you have—to put it mildly—a lot to live up to. And as shoegaze-revival groups go, LSD and the Search for God have nailed the essential elements: dulcet, inseparably blended male and female vocals that weave post-coitally through heavily FX'd guitars, rickety rhythms, and a potent sense of hazy vertigo. The quintet has released its first recordings in nine years, a five-song EP titled *Heaven Is a Place* (on Deep Space/Mind Expansion), and it's a gentle maelstrom of sugar-spun melodies and heavy-lidded vocals. Right now, the radiantly beautiful "Without You" sounds monumental, as the brilliant afternoon sun glints off the windows of an overpriced condo across from *The Stranger's* offices. Fans of Lush, My Bloody Valentine, and the Telescopes' lighter moments may find salvation in LSD and the Search for God's blurred crusade. **DAVE SEGAL**

Temple Canyon, Wood Knot, Dim Desires

(Chop Suey) Seattle quartet Wood Knot have been accruing some positive buzz around town, and a listen to their debut 2015 release, *((EP))*, proves there's some justification for it. It's hard not to be seduced by a band that uses Moog and Rhodes, and Wood Knot deploy them in service of songs that billow and surge with poised menace, shaded a vivid mauve by Annie Wise's dusky vocals. They peddle a strain of stealthy, thoughtful

rock that used to thrive in the 1990s with bands like Helium, Seam, and Slant 6. Wood Knot are following in that seldom-explored vein, and it should be interesting to see where they go from here. **DAVE SEGAL**

THURSDAY 5/26

Boots&Pants005: KAFKA, wndfrm, R-Pal

(Kremwerk) Vancouver producer KAFKA (aka Richard Duggan) creates that special brand of minimal techno that sounds like it's being forged in a grim, ice-cold factory. Paradoxically, something that seems so frigid and foreboding ends up setting fire to your synapses. (You're all hardwired like me, right? Good.) Anyway, KAFKA does his literary namesake proud via the subtle sense of doom he injects into his gripping, hypnotic tracks. Nothing like a swirling aura of hopelessness to get you moving and sweating. Wndfrm (Portland's Tim Westcott) has proved himself to be a master of chilling, dub-centric techno and isolationist ambient music. His production style of gradually accruing microscopic textures until they build into a mesmerizing chug of Basic Channel-like techno works like a time-delayed charm; check out his 2014 EP *Formal Variant* for proof. Rising Seattle techno and house DJ R-Pal (Rachel Kramer of the TUF and technodad collectives) opens. **DAVE SEGAL**

The Coup, Mic Flont, DJ Seabefore

(Crocodile, all ages) I could listen to *Party Music*, the 2001 album from Oakland's the Coup, any day, all day, every damn day. It remains as politically and sonically relevant as ever—a

sweaty, writhing, smart-ass, booty-shaking call for political dissent and, more importantly, action. But the same could be said for all six Coup albums. The group is currently at work on a seventh album while communist frontman Boots Riley is also busy making his first film, *Sorry to Bother You*, a dystopian sci-fi film about race and class warfare. The persistence and consistency of the Coup's—and particularly Riley's—music and message is a testament to the lengthy, struggling, grassroots nature of real political change. But tonight the Coup play live, and their shows are always incendiary—live guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, and DJ—all set off by Riley's charismatic intensity. Yes, the Coup want you to overthrow capitalist structures, but, more urgently, they insist you move your damn body: "Take a look around/And be for or against/But you can't do shit if you ridin' the fence." If you can't don't dance here, you're fucking dead inside. **ANGELA GARBES**

FRIDAY 5/27

Rain Fest: Axis, Blacklisted, Burn, Clarity, Gouge Away, more

(Neumos, all ages, May 27–29) The Pacific Northwest's premier hardcore festival kicks off its opening night with top slots dominated by bands that pushed the scene's no-frills philosophy into more nuanced territories. Burn closed out the heyday of New York hardcore by adding proto-emo melodicism, lyrical portents, and off-kilter guitar lines to the surging verses and chugging breakdowns of the era. Philadelphia's Blacklisted similarly demonstrated the evolution of hardcore from an unharnessed four-chord assault to an

exercise in tension and release. No Warning's brief signing with Linkin Park's Machine Shop Records in the mid '00s added a dubious gloss to their jagged sound, but singer Ben Cook's tenure as a guitarist for Fucked Up seems to have brought the grit back to their sound, as evidenced in recent ragers like "Resurrection of the Wolf." **BRIAN COOK**

Sasquatch! Festival

(Gorge Amphitheatre, all ages, May 27–30) Make space in your schedule to stare at cripplingly beautiful sunsets and face-plant in some chili fries, but have a checklist of some can't-miss bands handy, as well. After peeling yourself from your car's overheated interior upon arrival on Friday, you'll want to check out Long Beach's finest MC, Vince Staples, followed by Norwegian electro-lounge goofball Todd Terje and Australian producer/vocalist Chet Faker. Following a cold communal shower on Saturday, you'll want to catch sets by wicked smart indie/punk studs Protomartyr, the revived jazz-rap trio Digable Planets, homegrown chillwave stars Beat Connection, and emotional synth-rockers M83. After knife-fighting your tent neighbor for a bag of ice on Sunday, you should see hypnotic shoegaze outfit Autolux, hard-driving London rockers Savages, and some combination of Speedy Ortiz, Purity Ring, and uh... THE CURE (!). Monday's schedule is overflowing with goodness like the campground trash cans, so find your own path, but just know that you might not want to miss exceedingly dope neo-soul crew the Internet, massive beat-brandishing, starling-voiced Grimes, chilling underground-rock star Chelsea Wolfe, and finally, rare sets by dance-world heavyweights Four Tet, Caribou, and Jamie XX. Then try to get home in one piece. **TODD HAMM**

Youth Code, youryoungbody, Dirty Dirty

(Sunset) When was the last time you heard a new industrial band that mattered on a wide scale? Not an industrial-rock band like Nine Inch Nails or Rammstein, not an industrial-tinged hip-hop outfit like Death Grips, clipping., or Kanye on *Yeezus*, but a real no-bullshit industrial band without the Hot Topic fashion-cum-stigma? I'm thinking, what, KMFDM? How about Youth Code right now? Their new album, *Commitment to Complications*, overflows with huge piston-ish drum beats and vocalist Sara Taylor barks with equivalent vitriol to, say Seattle's own J.P. Anderson formerly of the Shizit. And people are taking notice: Youth Code are opening for Baroness on their current US tour, and we get an off date. **JOSEPH SCHAFER**

Raica, Chris Davis, Spacemint

(Chapel Performance Space, all ages) The Wayward Music Series' partnership with Further Records (disclosure: I've written some press sheets for Further) has yielded two excellent shows so far, and this one also looks promising. Best known for his cosmic synth excursions with Brain Fruit and his inventively noisy techno sets as P L L, Seattle's Chris Davis is planning an "improvised modular drone trip" for this show. Spacemint (aka Jeff Brown) released an album last year



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with LOU PHELPS
MAY 28 | 9:00PM

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Jai Ho! Dance Party hosted by Prashant with guest DJ LEMON

5.29 Sunday (Americana / Blues / Folk)
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CHASTITY BELT
Posse, Mommy Long Legs, Hoop

6.3 Friday (Reggae)
GONDWANA
Fayuca, Nattali Rize

6.4 Saturday (80s New WaveTribute)
NITE WAVE
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6.5 Sunday (Hip Hop)
MEGARAN
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6.14 SNOW THA PRODUCT
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6.25 HIT EXPLOSION
6.26 CURREN\$Y
6.30 NATASHA KMETO
7.1 SNUG HARBOR
7.2 JAI HO!
7.6 SAMANTHA FISH
7.7 LA INEDITA
7.12 RABBIT WILDE
7.13 BOOGAT
7.14 LAKOU MIZIK
7.19 I DRAW SLOW
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on Further called *Detonation Waves* that recalls the enigmatic, subterranean tremors and disorienting dynamics of cult analog-synth master Nic “Pascal” Raicevic and Gil Mellé’s *Andromeda Strain* soundtrack. Any musician who can make you feel as if you’re staggering on another planet deserves your attention. Raica—Further co-owner Chloe Harris—is the rare electronic musician who can be counted on to surprise and impress in live contexts. I’ve seen Raica play at least 10 times in the last few years, and she always adds new dimensions to her hardware-oriented live performances. **DAVE SEGAL**

SATURDAY 5/28

Paul Simon

(Chateau Ste. Michelle, all ages) If there were an award given for the Most Paul Simon-like lyrics to ever Paul Simon, Paul Simon would surely win. “Sonny wanders beyond his interior walls, runs his hands through his thinning brown hair,” he sings in “The Obvious Child” from 1990’s *The Rhythm of the Saints*. Simon, miraculously, has been giving us the most poignant lyrics—and some of the most rhythmically eclectic music—for more than five decades. He has always been a slightly sentimental old man, even when he was young. He is the ultimate cool dad—as wise and thoughtful as he is darkly humorous and caustic. Though Simon began as an acoustic folk musician, since 1972 his solo albums, including this year’s *Stranger to Stranger*, draw inspiration from music as far-flung as Brazil and South Africa. His career disproves his own lyric “How it’s strange that some roots are like cages.” **ANGELA GARBES**

Rain Fest: 108, Bent Life, Busted Outlook, Twitching Tongues, more

(Neumos, all ages, May 27–29) Day two of Rain Fest is a smorgasbord play of hardcore’s various manifestations—from Gag’s hallucinatory bad vibes to Twitching Tongues’ Peter Steele-esque vocals and heavy mosh grooves. Tonight’s top slots go to two of contemporary hardcore’s biggest names: Trapped Under Ice and Terror. Both bands have perfected the science of inducing ape-shit behavior from the crowd, so claim your spot in the venue accordingly. If “clobbering time” isn’t your thing, revered Krishna-core band 108 manage to channel all the wrath and urgency of their peers without inciting the same degree of violent recklessness. Regardless, anticipate waking up tomorrow with a few bruises. **BRIAN COOK**

Kaytranada, Lou Phelps

(Showbox, all ages) You know when someone says something like “Hip-hop is dead,” and your body involuntarily rolls its eyes so hard that you fall off your chair and into a crevasse, within which you pass the rest of your days because you refuse to believe that anyone could be both so dismissive and shortsighted? Cool, me too. Well Kaytranada is one of those artists who make me believe in the shift-refresh of genre fusion. On his latest album, *99.9%*, the stand-alone canons of jazz, electronica, and hip-hop, in his hands, fulfill their sonic destiny as natural forces of autonomous momentum. You can feel them pulse through every tendon. For real, get into it. You need this. **KIM SELLING**

Prong, Witchburn, Zero Down, Vial 8, Salem Knights

(El Corazon, all ages) To quote Beavis and Butt-Head, “You know what makes this band

cool (huh-huh)? They have two dudes who are good screamers, and they, like, take turns screaming (huh-huh). Screaming is cool.” NYC groove-metal masters Prong climbed to the top of the hard-rock heap back in the heyday of *Beavis and Butt-Head* with their opus, 1994’s *Cleansing*, featuring the iconic “Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck.” These days, it’s not all nostalgia, though, as Tommy Victor’s brainchild has released an album a year for the past three years, proving they still possess the power of the riff. **KEVIN DIERS**

SUNDAY 5/29

Rain Fest: Disgrace, Down to Nothing, Forced Order, Ill Intent, Lysol, more

(Neumos, all ages, May 27–29) The final day of Rain Fest has no shortage of noteworthy acts—the rare resurrection of defunct Brooklyn hardcore band Indecision and the headlining set by Virginia’s long-running straight-edge all-stars Down to Nothing are guaranteed to be barn burners. But the big deal for the Seattle old-timers is the return of melodic straight-edge band Stay Gold. In 2002, most bands in the Northwest hardcore scene were leaning heavily toward the metal end of the spectrum. Stay Gold, however, combined youth crew aesthetics with Turning Point’s heart-on-sleeve motifs and Hot Water Music’s rough-hewn punk anthems into a bold new sound. Stay Gold were short lived, but their legacy remains strong. **BRIAN COOK**

MONDAY 5/30

The Obsessed, Karma to Burn, Wounded Giant, Year of the Cobra

(El Corazon) Silver-haired man-mountain Scott “Wino” Weinrich strikes a thoughtful tone when asked why he’s reconvened stoner-rock

forebears the Obsessed for their first tour this century. “The reality was, it just took the right people,” Weinrich says of the trio’s new lineup, which features bassist Dave Sherman and drummer Brian Costantino. “Now, I’m totally into it, playing the old songs.” Thing is, they don’t sound old: Powered by Weinrich’s stirring, heart-on-sleeve-even-though-he-doesn’t-wear-sleeves vocals and inimitable riffing, there’s a timeless quality to the Obsessed catalog, even if they haven’t released a new record since 1994’s *The Church Within*. Mass is back in session. **JASON BRACELIN**

TUESDAY 5/31

Lamb of God, Clutch, Corrosion of Conformity

(WaMu Theater, all ages) Heavy metal has grown increasingly hermetic, largely preaching its black gospel to the already converted. This explains why the genre has birthed so few arena acts over the past decade, and why metal-centric summer outings like Ozzfest and Mayhem Fest have fallen by the wayside like the billions of empty beer cups left in their wake. But third-wave thrashers Lamb of God are a leading light in these dark times, regularly notching albums in the top 10 of the *Billboard* album chart, quite the feat for a bunch of math-metal aficionados once named Burn the Priest. On Lamb of God’s current tour, they’re bringing along fellow gateway acts Clutch, whose bluesy bombast is as wild and woolly as frontman Neil Fallon’s lumberjack beard, and Corrosion of Conformity, who’ve reunited with singer/guitarist Pepper Keenan to shake the dirt from their Southern-rock roots. **JASON BRACELIN**



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Featuring Tara Brooks*
With Michael Manahan*
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Visuals by Brandy Gray // \$10

SAT 5/28 // 10 pm 70s, 80s, 90s & BEYOND
CEREMONY presents
PURPLE- Prince Tribute Night
With Evan Blackstone
and Chance Green // \$5

SUN 5/29 // 10pm HOUSE MUSIC
FLAMMABLE
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MEMORIAL DAY EDITION
with residents Wesley Holmes,
Brian Lyons, Xan Lucero,
and Karl Kamakahi // \$10

TUE 5/31 // 7pm
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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

All the Shows Happening This Week

strangerthingstodo.com @SEAshtows
★ = Recommended A = All Ages

WED 5/25

LIVE MUSIC

BLUE MOON TAVERN Open Mic With Linda Lee, 8 pm
★ **CHOP SUEY** Temple Canyon, Wood Knots, Dim Desires, 8 pm, \$7
● **CROCODILE** House of Breaking Glass Showcase: Maiah Manser and Guests, 7 pm, free
DARRELL'S TAVERN Open Mic, 9 pm, free
EGAN'S JAM HOUSE Vocal Showcase and Jam, 7 pm, \$10
● **FIX COFFEEHOUSE** Open Mic, 7 pm, free
THE FUNHOUSE Mother Crone, Slow Season, Devils Hunt Me Down, Woodshed, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
HIGH DIVE Lando, The Good Wives, The Dead Woods, 8 pm, \$6/\$8
HIGHLINE Stoffel, Yr Parents, The Ground, 9 pm, \$8/\$10
HIGHWAY 99 Black Clouds Blues, 8 pm, \$7
J&M CAFE The Lonnie Williams Band, 8 pm, free
KELLS Liam Gallagher
★ **LO-FI** LSD and the Search for God, Kingdom of the Holy Sun, 8 pm, \$10/\$12
★ **NECTAR** Reduce the Suffering of Nicaragua's Sugar Cane Workers: A Fundraiser for PASE, 5 pm, \$20
OHANA Live Island Music, 9:30 pm, free
OWL N' THISTLE Justin and Guests, 9 pm, free
● **PANTAGES THEATER** Buddy Guy, 7:30 pm, \$34-\$110
PARAGON Two Buck Chuck, 8 pm, free
THE ROYAL ROOM Becca and Soul with The Highlife Band, 7:30 pm, \$10
SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Open Mic, 8:30 pm, free
SOUND CHECK BAR & GRILL Open Mic, 8 pm, free
SUNSET TAVERN These People Here, Northern Allies, Pop Cycle, 9 pm, \$8
TRACTOR TAVERN Mads Jacobsen with Garrett and the Sheriffs, and Bobby's Oar, 8 pm, \$8
● **TRIPLE DOOR** Kris Allen with Marie Miller, 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25
● **VERA PROJECT** Rozz Dylliams, AJ Suede, Dizzi Slick, Wolfstone, Fish Narc, 7:30 pm, \$10
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Ben Von Wildenhaus, 9 pm, free

JAZZ
★ **CONOR BYRNE** Happy Orchestra, 9 pm, free
● **JAZZ ALLEY** Donald Harrison, 7:30 pm, \$10
SARAJEVO LOUNGE Gypsy Jazz Music, 8 pm, free
TULA'S Greta Matassa Jazz Showcase, 7 pm, \$12

DJ
BALTIC ROOM Bollocks
CONTOUR NuDe Wednesdays, 9 pm, free
HAVANA COOLIN, 10 pm, \$3
LOVECITYLOVE LOVECITYLOVE X WEDNESDAYS, 8-11 pm, \$5/\$10
NEIGHBOURS Exposed
Q NIGHTCLUB FWD: ESTA. and Guests: Esta., Ainslee, Pat Nasty, Jamie Blake, 9

pm-2 am, \$11
STUDIO SEVEN Electric Wednesday

CLASSICAL

● **UW MEANY STUDIO THEATER** World Percussion Bash: UW Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$15

THURS 5/26

LIVE MUSIC

● **BENAROYA HALL** A Tribute to Woody Guthrie and His Month of Song, 7:30 pm, \$35-\$45
● **BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Vocalpoint! Seattle: Sing, Sing, Swing!, Through May 28, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$20
CAFE RACER Julia Firelight and Rachel Oto, 9-11 pm, free
COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Jisun, 6:30 pm, free
★ ● **CROCODILE** The Coup with DJ Seabefore, 8 pm, \$18
● **DOWNPOUR BREWING** Open Mic Night, 5 pm, free
THE FUNHOUSE The Devil in California, Burn River Burn, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
GHOSTFISH BREWING George Grissom, 6 pm
HIGH DIVE Comedy of Terrors, The People Now, Gravy, 8:30 pm, \$8/\$10
HIGHLINE Deer Venom, Porn Bloopers, Variations, ex Licks, 9:30 pm, \$7
HIGHWAY 99 Patti Allen and Monster Road, 8 pm, \$7
J&M CAFE True Romans, 8 pm, free
KELLS Liam Gallagher
LO-FI Gray and the Co Coos, Ferrari Boys, The Dumps, 9 pm, \$7
NECTAR Spyn Reset, Theoretics, Richie Aldente, 8 pm, \$7
● **NEPTUNE THEATRE** PVRIS, with Lydia, CRUISR, and Polyenso, 7 pm, \$16.50-\$20.50
NEUMOS Merle Haggard Memorial Night, 8 pm, \$6
OWL N' THISTLE Benyaro, 8 pm, free
RENDEZVOUS Pseudo, Intisaar, Johndus Beckman, 9:45 pm, \$6/\$8
THE ROYAL ROOM Beatwalk Youth Initiative Fundraiser with D'Vonne Lewis' Limited Edition, 8 pm, \$10
SCRATCH DELI Music Open Mic, 7:30 pm, free
SEAMONSTER Marmalade, 10 pm, free
● **THE SHOWBOX** Ginuwine with Guests, 8 pm, \$30/\$35
● **STONEWAY CAFE** Open Mic, 7:30 pm, free
● **STUDIO SEVEN** Afton Live Presents First Nature and Guests, 6:45 pm, \$11
SUBSTATION Charlie and the Rays, The Rainy Day Splish Splosh Band, Signal Flags, Goose Vargis, 8 pm, \$8
SUNSET TAVERN Great Spiders and Night Boss, 9 pm, \$8
TRACTOR TAVERN The Wild Reeds with Stefan Paul George, and Anna Tivel, 9 pm, \$8
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Casey MacGill, 5:30 pm, free

JAZZ
★ **BARCA** Jazz at Barca:

Phil Sparks Trio, Adam Kessler, and Guests, 9 pm, free
● **JAZZ ALLEY** Arturo Sandoval, May 26-29, 7:30 pm, \$33.50
PINK DOOR Bric-a-Brac, 8 pm, free
● **SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO** Chris James Quartet, 7 pm, free
● **TRIPLE DOOR** Secret Music Showcase #16: Centrum Vintage Jazz and Blues, 7:30 pm, \$25
TULA'S Bren Plummer Trio Album Release Show, 7:30 pm, \$10
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE LaVon Hardison, 9 pm, free

DJ

BALLROOM Throwback Thursdays, 9 pm
BALTIC ROOM Sugar Beat, \$3
CONTOUR Jaded
★ **HAVANA** Sophisticated Mama, free
JAZZBONES College Night, 9 pm
★ **KREMWERK** Boots&Pants005: KAFKA, WNDFRM, R-Pal, 8 pm, \$5/\$10
MERCURY Isolation, \$3
NEIGHBOURS Revolution
OHANA '80s Ladies Night
Q NIGHTCLUB Studio 4/4: Cassian: Cassian, Brian Lyons, Drew, BBecks, 9 pm-2 am, \$11
R PLACE Thirsty Thursdays
THERAPY LOUNGE Therapy Sessions, 10 pm
TRINITY Beer Pong Thursdays, free

CLASSICAL

● **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Marcin Paczkowski: Music For Performers, Accelerometers, and Instruments, 8 pm, \$5-\$15
● **UW MEANY THEATRE** Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, 7:30 pm, \$10

FRI 5/27

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Dueling Piano Show, 8 pm, free
BARBOZA Tinfoil and Tape, The Bailey Range, Eastern Souvenirs, 7 pm, \$8
● **BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Vocalpoint! Seattle: Sing, Sing, Swing!, Through May 28, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$20
★ ● **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Further Records Showcase: Raica, Chris Davis, Spacement, 8 pm, \$5-\$15
CHINA HARBOR Orquesta la Solucion, 9:30 pm, \$15
● **COLUMBIA CITY THEATER** Greyson Chance, 7 pm, \$42.02-\$113.51
● **CROCODILE** Valadares and Guests, 7:30 pm, \$12
EL CORAZON Anvil, Unleash the Archers, Gravesadow, 8 pm, \$15/\$20
THE FUNHOUSE Maddex, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
● **GAY CITY** Trans & Gender Queer Artist Open Mic, 6-9 pm, free
★ ● **GORGE AMPHITHEATRE** Sasquatch! 2016
HIGH DIVE Georgetown All-Stars, Roxbury Pound,

Kissing Potion, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
HIGHWAY 99 Dudley Taft Band, 8 pm, \$16
JAZZBONES Erotic City: A Prince Tribute, 7:30-9:45 pm, \$15/\$20
★ **KREMWERK** Squall Two-Year Anniversary: Timm Mason, Vast Plains, Subliminal Genocide, DJ Maire, 6-9 pm, \$5
NECTAR Poor Man's Whiskey, Polecat, 9 pm, \$12/\$16
★ ● **NEUMOS** Rain Fest 2016, \$100
OWL N' THISTLE Crow Quill Night Owls, May 27-28, 9 pm, free
THE ROYAL ROOM Scott Pemberton and the Andy Coe Band, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$12
SEAMONSTER Live Funk, 10 pm, free
★ **SUNSET TAVERN** Youth Code, youryoungbody, Dirty Dirty, 9 pm, \$12
TIM NOAH'S THUMBNAIL THEATER Friday Night Open Mic, 6:30 pm, \$3-\$5
TRACTOR TAVERN Aaron Crawford, Jessica Lynne, Highway 9, 9 pm, \$12
● **TRIPLE DOOR** Bobby Medina: Whipped Cream and Other Delights: A Herb Alpert Tribute Show, 8 pm, \$25
● **THE VERN BURTON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER** Juan de Fuca Festival, \$25-\$60
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Yada Yada Blues Band, 9 pm, free

JAZZ
CYPRESS WINE BAR Einah Jordan, 7-10 pm, free
● **JAZZ ALLEY** Arturo Sandoval, Through May 29, 7:30 pm, \$33.50
LATONA PUB Phil Sparks Trio, 5 pm, free
TULA'S Fourth Annual Miles Davis Birthday Celebration, May 27-28, 7:30 pm, \$20

DJ

ASTON MANOR Cabaret Fridays
BALLROOM Rendezvous Friday, 9 pm
BALMAR Top 40, 9:30 pm, free
BALTIC ROOM Fundamental Fridays
★ Juicy: '90s & 2000s Old School Throwbacks, \$10
BARBOZA Jet, 10:30 pm, free
★ **CUFF** DJ Night: Rotating DJs, 10 pm-3 am, free
THE EAGLE Justice with Bret Law, 10 pm-3 am
HAVANA Viva Havana, 9 pm, \$11
JAZZBONES Filthy Fridays, 11 pm, \$10
KREMWERK SIN, 9 pm, \$5
MERCURY Club Kink: Dr. Noir, \$5-\$15; Strict Machine: Marius and DJ Chadeau, 9 pm, \$5
NEIGHBOURS Absolut Fridays, 9 pm
OHANA DJs, 10 pm, free
OSZIE'S DJs, 9 pm, free
R PLACE Swollen Fridays, 9 pm
STOUT DJ ePop, 9 pm, free
SUBSTATION Big Ups with Pressha, Kloak, Reaper, Truble, 10 pm-2 am
THERAPY LOUNGE Under Pressure, 9:30 pm, \$3 after 10:30 p.m.
TRINITY Power Fridays, \$0-\$10

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5/26 THU BOOTS&PANTS005
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WINDHAM FLINE SET/PUNK
R-PAL LITH/TREMBLOADE

5/27 FRI SQUALL 2 YEAR ANNIV
WHEELS OF WAX/BLACK LIPS/STONED
LORDS OF THE NEW SCHOOL/STONED
REPTILES/STONED/STONED

5/27 FRI SIN : DARKNESS & DECADENCE
LORDS OF THE NEW SCHOOL/STONED
WHEELS OF WAX/BLACK LIPS/STONED
REPTILES/STONED/STONED

5/28 SAT KINGS : A DRAG KING SHOW
WHEELS OF WAX/STONED
THE ONLY ALL-DRAG KING SHOW IN SEATTLE

5/28 SAT KISS OFF FT. DIRTYKURTY
WHEELS OF WAX/STONED
LORDS OF THE NEW SCHOOL/STONED
REPTILES/STONED/STONED

5/29 SUN STIFFED! TEA DANCE
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EDITION
DISCO/7-11 BEER/BOAT/NO COVER
DANA DUB X PRUNTY

5/29 SUN BASSIC VS FWD
WHEELS OF WAX/STONED
REPTILES/STONED/STONED

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THE CROCODILE

5/25
WEDNESDAY



CROWDAA Unlocks::
House of Breaking Glass Showcase Featuring
Maiah Manser
IG88, The Last Artful, Dodgr, Eric Howk,
Ian Hale and the Legacy, Briel *All Ages - FREE*

5/26
THURSDAY



The Crocodile & ReignCity Present::
The Coup
DJ Seabefore *All Ages*

5/27
FRIDAY



The Crocodile & Red Sleeve Present::
VALADARES
Life as Cinema, Hatters, BlackBeatBlue,
Alkali Earth *All Ages*

5/27
FRIDAY



The Crocodile & Rain City Ambience Present::
Youth Code @ The Sunset
Dirty Dirty, youryoungbody *21+*

5/28
SATURDAY



Whitney Mongé
Evie B, Cody Ray & The New Favorites,
JP Hennessey *21+*

5/29
SUNDAY



KEXP, The Crocodile & ReignCity Present::
Father "Im A Piece Of Sh*t Tour"
Tommy Genesis, Lui Diamonds *All Ages*

FEATURED



Sat 6/25
SISTERS



Sun 6/26
BIG BUSINESS



Mon 7/11
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THINGS TO DO All the Shows Happening This Week

DANCE

NEPTUNE THEATRE Oh, You Pretty Things!: A David Bowie and Glam Rock Dance Party, 9 pm, \$15

CLASSICAL

● **UW MEANY STUDIO THEATER** Mallethead Series: Tom Collier and Guests, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$20

● **UW MEANY THEATRE** Two Stars Falling: Music of Love, Life, Mystery: UW Chamber Singers, 7:30 pm, \$10

SAT 5/28

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA VÉRITÉ with Lostboycrew, 7 pm, \$12

● **BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Vocalpoint! Seattle: Sing, Sing, Swing!, Through May 28, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$20

★ **CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE** Paul Simon, May 28-29, 7 pm, \$70-\$154.50

CLUB HOLLYWOOD CASINO Johnny and the Bad Boys and DJ Becka Page, 9 pm, \$5

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Pigs on the Wing with Tres Hombres, 8 pm, \$15/\$18

CONOR BYRNE Punk As Folk, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

CROCODILE Whitney Monge, 7:30 pm, \$10

★ **EL CORAZON** Prong, Witchburn, Zero Down, Vial 8, Salem Knights, 7:30 pm, \$18/\$20

★ **● EMP SKY CHURCH** Madaraka Festival, 8 pm, \$25-\$200

● **THE FUNHOUSE** The So So Glos, Dirty Nil, Ramona, 7 pm, \$10/\$12

GEORGETOWN LIQUOR COMPANY Zero, Frustration, Babylon, Rimmer, 10 pm

★ **● GORGE AMPHITHEATRE** Sasquatch! 2016

HIGH DIVE Purr Gato, Blakk Glass, Science and The Beat, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

HIGHWAY 99 Mark Hummel Band with Rusty Zinn and Jimi Bott, 8 pm, \$20

★ **● NEUMOS** Rain Fest 2016, \$100

OWL N' THISTLE Crow Quill Night Owls, Through May 28, 9 pm, free

SHOWARE CENTER Ladies Night Out, 7:30 pm, \$32

★ **● THE SHOWBOX** Kaytranada, Lou Phelps, 9 pm, \$20/\$25

★ **SLIM'S LAST CHANCE** The Von Howlers, Wiscon, The Black Tones, 9 pm, \$6

● **STUDIO SEVEN** Afton Live Presents Sir Jones and Guests, 7 pm, \$12/\$15

SUBSTATION Patriarch, Addaura, Huldrekall, 9 pm-1 am, \$15

● **SUNLIGHT SUPPLY AMPHITHEATER** The Cure with The Twilight Sad, 7 pm, \$17-\$92

SUNSET TAVERN Ole Tinder, Denver, Lowman Palace, Stella, 9 pm, \$8

TRACTOR TAVERN Fine Prince with The West and Fey Moth, 9 pm, \$8

● **TRIPLE DOOR** Zach Fleury Album Release Show with Lizzy Gundersen, 8 pm, \$17/\$21

● **THE VERN BURTON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER** Juan de Fuca Festival, \$25-\$60

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Afrocop, 9:30 pm, free

JAZZ

● **JAZZ ALLEY** Arturo Sandoval, Through May 29, 7:30 pm, \$33.50

● **THE ROYAL ROOM** The

Seales Brothers Band, 8 pm, \$22

TULA'S Fourth Annual Miles Davis Birthday Celebration, Through May 28, 7:30 pm, \$20

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Jerry Zimmerman, 6 pm, free

DJ

ASTON MANOR NRG Saturdays

BALLARD LOFT Hiphop Saturdays, 10 pm, free

BALLROOM Sinful Saturdays, 9 pm

BALMAR Top 40 Night, 9:30 pm, free

BALTIC ROOM Crave Saturdays, 10 pm

BARBOZA Inferno, 10:30 pm, \$5 before midnight/\$10 after

BUCKLEY'S IN BELLTOWN '90s Dance Party, 9 pm

CHOP SUEY Dance Yourself Clean, 9 pm, \$5; free before 10:30 p.m.

CORBU LOUNGE Saturday Night Live

★ **CUFF** DJs, 10 pm-3 am, free

GAINSBURG Voulez-Vous Boogaloo, 10 pm, free

HAVANA Havana Social, 9 pm, \$15

MERCURY Machineries of Joy: DJ Hana Solo, \$5; Malice in Wonderland IV: The Mercury's Happy Unbirthday Tea Party, 9 pm, \$5

MONKEY LOFT Diggin Deep, 10 pm

NECTAR Bollywood EDM: Jai Ho! Dance Party with DJ Lemon, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

NEIGHBOURS Powermix

OHANA DJs, 10 pm, free

OZZIE'S DJs, 9 pm, free

Q NIGHTCLUB Madness, 10 pm, \$12

R PLACE Therapy Saturday

SARAJEVO LOUNGE European/Balkan/Greek Night: Guests

STOUT DJ ePop, 9 pm, free

THERAPY LOUNGE This Modern Love

TRINITY Reload Saturdays, \$15

VERMILLION Spread Thick, 9 pm, free

THE WOODS Juicebox: Sean Cee and Blueyedsoul

DANCE

ALL PILGRIMS CHURCH Pink Prom: Super Queeros LGBTQ Youth Dance, 8 pm-midnight, \$10-\$20

SUN 5/29

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA The Good Life, La Sera, Tancred, 8 pm, \$15

● **BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Vocalpoint! Seattle: Sing, Sing, Swing!, 2:30 pm, \$5-\$20

● **CAFE RACER** Racer Sessions, 7:30-11 pm, free

★ **CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE** Paul Simon, 7 pm, \$70-\$154.50

CROCODILE ● The Pizza Pulpit: The Walking Faces and Peg, 6:30 pm, free; ★ ● Father with Tommy Genesis and Lui Diamonds: I'm a Piece of Shit Tour, 8 pm, \$20

● **EL CORAZON** Kutt Calhoun, 7 pm, \$12/\$15

● **EL GAUCHO** Paul Richardson, 6 pm, free

THE FUNHOUSE Bryce Bowden, Shubzilla, Bill Beats, 7 pm, \$7/\$10

★ **● GORGE AMPHITHEATRE** Sasquatch! 2016

HIGH DIVE Woodgraves, Paul Kozenbach, Masc Acting, 8 pm, \$6/\$8

HIGHLINE Aelter, Geist and the Sacred Ensemble,

Thunder Grey Pilgrim, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

KELLS Liam Gallagher

LITTLE RED HEN Open Mic Acoustic Jam with Bodacious Billy, 4 pm

NECTAR Heels to the Hardwood, 8 pm, free

★ **● NEUMOS** Rain Fest 2016, \$100

THE ROYAL ROOM Norman Baker and the Backroads, Monoclub, Chava Mirel, 7:30 pm, free

● **SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB** All Ages Open Mic, free

● **STUDIO SEVEN** Gorilla Music Showcase: A Night of Unsigned Talent, 5 pm, \$10/\$15

SUBSTATION Seattle Rhythm Kings #5: Freudian Slurp, Jay D'LAY and the Haze, Kurt Kostakos and the Castle Underground, 8:45 pm, free

SUNSET TAVERN The Wind and the Wave, 8 pm, \$12

TIM'S TAVERN Kirsten Silva's Seattle Songwriter Showcase

TRACTOR TAVERN The Stray Birds with Evie Ladin, 8 pm, \$15

● **TRIPLE DOOR** Tina Dico, 7:30 pm, \$18/\$21

● **THE VERN BURTON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER** Juan de Fuca Festival, \$25-\$60

JAZZ

THE ANGRY BEAVER The Beaver Sessions, free

DARRELL'S TAVERN Sunday Night Jazz Jam, 8 pm, free

● **HARISSA** Sunday Bossa Nova, 6 pm, free

● **JAZZ ALLEY** Arturo Sandoval, 7:30 pm, \$33.50

SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO Shuga Sundays: Eric Verlinde and Guests, 7:30 pm, free

★ **● TULA'S** Jim Cutler Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$8

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE ★ Ruby Bishop, 6 pm, free; ★ The Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30 pm, free

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Resurrection Sundays, 10 pm

CONTOUR Broken Grooves, free

CORBU LOUNGE Salsa Sundays, 9 pm

★ **KREMWERK** Stiffed! Memorial Day Weekend Tea Dance, 4-9 pm, free

NEIGHBOURS Noche Latina

PONY TeaDance, 4 pm

R PLACE Homo Hop

★ **RE-BAR** Flammable, 9 pm, \$10

★ **REVOLVER BAR** No Exit, noon, free

CLASSICAL

★ **● ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL** Compline Choir, 9:30 pm, free

MON 5/30

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Blues On Tap, 7 pm, free

BLACK LODGE Peach Kelli Pop, Topless, Blooper, Happy Times Sad Times, 8:30 pm, \$8

CAPITOL CIDER EntreMundos, 9:30 pm, free

CONOR BYRNE Bluegrass Jam, 8:30 pm, free

★ **EL CORAZON** The Obsessed with Karma to Burn, Wounded Giant, Year of the Cobra, 8 pm, \$18/\$20

● **EL GAUCHO** Paul Richardson, 6 pm, free

★ **● GORGE AMPHITHEATRE** Sasquatch! 2016

KELLS Liam Gallagher

LUCKY LIQUOR Sid Law

THE ROYAL ROOM Nathan Breedlove with Phil Sparks

and Brian Kirk, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$12

TRIPLE DOOR MUSICQUARIUM LOUNGE Crossrhythm Sessions, 9 pm, free

● **THE VERN BURTON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER** Juan de Fuca Festival, \$25-\$60

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DJ

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★ **BAR SUE** Motown on Mondays, 10 pm, free

★ **THE HIDEOUT** Industry Standard, free

★ **MOE BAR** Moe Bar Monday, 10 pm, free

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SEAMONSTER McTuff Trio, 11 pm, free

TIM'S TAVERN Open Mic, 8 pm

TRACTOR TAVERN Hush Presents Yarn, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

★ **● TRIPLE DOOR** Trashcan Sinatras, 7:30 pm, \$22/\$25

● **VERA PROJECT** The Hotelier, Told Slant, Loone, Dyke Drama, 7 pm, \$13

★ **● WAMU THEATER** Lamb of God, Clutch, Corrosion of Conformity, 7 pm, \$26.50

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THURS, 5/26-SUN, 5/29 ANDREW SLEIGHTER

Andrew's laid-back style and clever writing has won him appreciation from fans and respect from his peers. He's performed (and gotten drunk) at some of the most prestigious comedy festivals in and out of the country including *Bumbershoot*, *Bridgetown Comedy Festival*, The Cabo Comedy Festival, The Aspen Comedy Festival, Laughing Skull, and the *Johnny Carson Great American Comedy Festival*.



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MUSIC



RAHSAAN ROLAND KIRK "True black music will be heard tonight."

Capturing the Revolutionary Spirit of the Late Jazz Visionary Rahsaan Roland Kirk

BY DAVE SEGAL

The last thing you want in a film about the sui generis jazz musician Rahsaan Roland Kirk is a dry, academic chronology of his life and accomplishments. Thankfully, Adam Kahan's *The Case of the Three Sided Dream* avoids that approach.

There are no album-by-album summaries or stuffy assessments of Kirk's various phases by critics like Nat Hentoff or Stanley Crouch (not that I would mind the latter). Instead, Kahan combines traditional tropes like talking-head testimonials and reminiscences with archival video footage of Kirk in action and being interviewed along with eccentric animated sequences.

These elements emerge with the same impressionistic spontaneity that Kirk applied to his music-making. The transitions are surprising but never jarring. Kahan captures the iconoclastic multi-instrumentalist's freewheeling spirit through his loose-limbed directorial style—and by letting Kirk's music (a fiery, inventive confluence of hard bop, blues, free jazz, and R&B played on multiple reeds simultaneously) do much of the heavy lifting.

Details of Kirk's relatively brief life (1935–1977) and unconventional musical techniques—he often played the flute with his nose and used circular breathing to hold notes for extended lengths—emerge via interviews with his wife, son, friends, bandmates, and other collaborators. Blinded shortly after birth when a botched hospital procedure burned his corneas, Kirk exhibited at age 6 the sort of adventurous instincts that would characterize his musical career by cutting a garden hose and turning it into a wind instrument.

The poet Betty Neals observes that sound was Kirk's "one and only reality, his life. Rahsaan did things harmonically, melodically, sonically, physically that had never been seen or heard before or since. To know him was to know a trickster who was outspoken, political, driven, concerned. He had many agendas but also could laugh. Above all, he was a man who was in tune with his surroundings. I can still

hear him say, 'Everything can be music if it's cultivated.'"

Like Max Roach, Kirk disliked the term "jazz," preferring "black classical music." The terminology reflected Kirk's unabashed pro-black sentiments. (He has a song titled "Blacknuss" that features only notes from the piano's black keys.) Even though he released music on prominent labels like Atlantic, Pres-

Some thought Kirk's act was gimmicky, but he dreamed himself into the pantheon.

tige, Verve, and Warner Bros., Kirk felt that black jazz musicians in America still were not receiving the respect and exposure on radio and television that they deserved.

Some of the film's most scintillating moments pertain to Kirk's subversion of mainstream television protocol, including disrupting the *Dick Cavett Show* with whistles during an interview with Trevor Howard, right at the point where the British actor says, "There are so few places [in New York] to hear good jazz music." The program went off the air during that outburst.

Three Sided Dream's highlight, though, is the scene where Kirk gathers jazz titans like Charles Mingus, Roy Haynes, and Archie Shepp for a performance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. They were contracted to do the beautiful yet innocuous Stevie Wonder ballad "My Cherie Amour," but instead Kirk and company tore through Mingus's uproarious "Haitian Fight Song." (The leader had prefaced the piece with the line "True black music will be heard tonight" and then gave a Swahili command to begin.)

Afterward, Sullivan spluttered "wonderful" over and over, but he looked mortified.

Another memorable vignette shows Kirk at a zoo with his son on his shoulders, playing his flute in an imitation of a coyote's cry. As pianist Rahn Burton notes, "Rahsaan would try to duplicate sounds he heard in ordinary life on his horns. He saw through his ears."

The Case of the Three Sided Dream reveals the powerful impact of the title's final word on Kirk's life. Dreams inspired his decision to play three saxes at once and to add "Rahsaan" to his name; that was no marketing ploy to exoticize himself and gain more record sales.

The film also portrays the indomitable urges that drove the Ohio-born Kirk to move to New York as a teenager to play music, to overcome the handicap of sightlessness, and to forge an innovative catalog that combined modified saxophones with props like alarm clocks, sirens, and whistles, to continue to play gigs and record, even after suffering a stroke at age 39 that left his right side partially paralyzed.

Some thought Kirk's act was gimmicky, but this witty sonic and political revolutionary dreamed himself into the pantheon through a rare ability to fuse oddly beautiful compositions, uncompromising political views, and whimsy. We shan't see his like again. ■

Dave Segal is all over at
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RECORD REVIEW

Life of Brian
Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Live at the Hollywood Bowl
The Meaning of Life
And Now for Something Completely Different

The latest album by PJ Harvey is unlikely to change the world, which says more about the world than it does about the great artist who made it. (The Hope Six Demolition Project entered with a comparative whimper, as it had the misfortune of being released the same week in which Prince died.)

Even if it had received the full team-of-stallions- marching-down- Broadway-through-a-blizzard-of-ticker-tape treatment that I believe should attend Polly Jean Harvey’s every musical utterance, Hope Six would still be unlikely to have the kind of impact “important” rock music used to be able to expect—or in some cases, to manufacture— because its central theme

PJ HARVEY
The Hope Six
Demolition Project
(Island/Vagrant Records)

isn’t a declaration of ideology or a call to arms. Just the opposite. The album is dedicated to the quest to find even one true thing worth saying about a world beset by hellish depravity, war, hunger, and poverty.

Though the songs sound like a continuation of Harvey’s Let England Shake, which, interestingly, read as something of a reconstructed protest album, consumed by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But where that 2011 album’s perspective was literary, panoptical, a reflection on the nature of war itself, Hope Six is entirely subjective, a single lens on a shattered world, hungry for a single true image.

Harvey has said the songs arose from her travels to Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Washington, DC, with the war photographer Seamus Murphy, who also collaborated on visual materials for Let England Shake. And journalism does seem to be the operative mode of the lyrics throughout. Though the language is not without the odd flourish, the perspective is kept within the constraint of a single perspective and all it can and can’t see. (This constraint is where the poetry sneaks in.)

In “The Orange Monkey,” a restlessness in the narrator’s mind tells her that the only way to resolve the questions that plague her is travel. “I took a plane to a foreign land / And said, ‘I’ll write down what I find,’” she sings, in a bit of a mission statement.

You won’t be surprised to learn that what she finds isn’t pretty. Mass killings, brutalized native people, “a displaced family eating a cold horse’s hoof.”

In “Chain of Keys,” she witnesses a woman walking on a dusty road carrying 15 keys that go to the 15 houses that have been left vacant, presumably because the neighbors have been killed. “Imagine what her eyes have seen,” Harvey sings. “We ask, but she won’t let us in.”

In the semi-controversial “The Community of Hope,” bedraggled landmarks fly by as if being seen through a car window: “Here’s the old mental institution / Now the Homeland Security Base / And here’s God’s Deliverance Centre / A deli called MLK.”

The incomplete nature of Harvey’s observations has vexed people who think she’s behaving like a poverty tourist. Clearly, though, song and album’s are about the impossibility of fully “understanding” the lives of people trapped in the kind of environments she’s singing about.

We ignore the transparent divisions—wealth, class, race, gender—between us at our peril (and theirs). (SEAN NELSON)

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ART

JEREMY MANGAN *Pacific Northwest Desert Island*, 2016.

Reflecting the World We Have, Not the World We Want

BY JEN GRAVES

When you enter Tacoma Art Museum, you have the option to sit down in a handsome little cinema. Short films play on a loop—trailers for the frontier art and Edvard Munch exhibits now on view. Both videos are professionally made by TAM and would fit into any boardroom. Their subject is art, but they are not art.

Then comes some extremely freaky stuff, as if you've switched to late-night public access.

This third video is an underwater/water's-edge phantasmagoria narrated by a disguised voice speaking garbled poetry. A mermaid appears before a window, swimming while smiling, for an audience that is implied to be you (you pervert). Another woman is dashed on the rocks at the water's edge of a bay harboring a mega cruise ship. Her bare skin is everywhere covered by a full-body wig of long brown curls, and she has barnacles for eyebrows. The same woman poses on land like a goddess at her own shrine as the altered voice ekes out, "I am the caretaker... I, a mermaid prostitute... A sanctuary. A self-care cloud."

Given that the video is called *Sunken Hot House*, and given that we are destroying oceans at unprecedented rates while jabbering about how to find time for "self-care" in busy lives that require consumer goods to be delivered within the next two hours—and that Hothouse is the name of Seattle's classic women's spa—well, given all that, there is nothing freaky or unusual about this video at all.

It simply reflects the world we're in.

Thank you for that re-disorientation, Dakota Gearhart. Gearhart is the Seattle artist who created the brilliant 11-minute disruption to the environment of corporate video production.

Sneaking *Sunken Hot House* into the trailer lineup highlights the way that artists in *NW Art Now*, the new survey of Northwest art at TAM, are invading the museum as best they can, and succeeding.

On the concrete wall of the museum's parking lot, there's a huge sign that looks like an official municipal posting. "NO DOGS," it says. It's by Portland artist Brad Adkins, who mounts authoritative-looking signs actually

attached to no authority at all.

The signs represent a libertarian streak in Northwestern identity, says curator Rock Hushka, while his other chosen themes for this survey are the progressive standbys of environmentalism, social justice, and race/class/gender identity. His argument is that the Northwest incubates libertarian and liberal tendencies that often conflict, and so its art reflects desires and realities locked in contention.

There are calls to shared experience throughout the exhibition. In Humaira Abid's *My Shame*, a red stain appears on the white cushion of a genteel upholstered chair. A trail of sculpted ants marches on the blood the woman left behind.

Then there's Tacoma artist Jeremy Mangan's painting *Pacific Northwest Desert Island*, presenting the shared experience of being alone. A slice of Northwest landscape is marooned and set up for camping.

Independent or lost? Crossing-over place (as indigenous people called this land) or escape?

Walla Walla artist Juventino Aranda's textiles reject the assumption that we all share the same Northwest landscape.

He takes discarded yardage from the Pendleton mills, where manufactured blankets mimic indigenous trade items from the Southwest and Mexico, and paints fields of color on them so they resemble the high art of Mark Rothko's color fields.

With titles like *When All You Have Left Are Limes*, *Make Margaritas*, *Nod and Smile*; *Old and Faithful Since 1848* (*Yellowstone*), the pieces contrast his family's hard history of migrant work with the grandiosity and sublimity of art and landscape.

In 2007, 2009, and 2012, this survey was respectively conservative (leaving out photo and video almost entirely), a little less conservative, and a veer in the other direction, dominated by social practice art.

This year, the works are refreshingly varied, but Hushka's installation is frustratingly overcrowded (yet again for a Hushka show).

Hushka collaborates each time with an outside curator. Juan Roselione-Valadez of the Rubell Family Collection in Miami encour-

aged Hushka to keep the number of artists low this year. There are only 24 artists (296 applied) and 47 works, but they're stuffed into one gallery that bursts at the seams.

I suspect some works will be overlooked for lack of shouting: Rodrigo Valenzuela's *Maria TV*, for instance, an extraordinary video in which real-life maids explore acting out their own lives as well as soap-opera stereotypes, or the meditative, slow-crawling animal-language paintings of Asia Tail.

There are a few nice juxtapositions. C. Davida Ingram's two videos, of a group of women in a public space and a female couple in a private embrace, alternate on facing walls, speaking to each other.

SuttonBeresCuller have a smart, funny miniature version of the phallic eruption they showed last year at the Frye Art Museum. The artists are now portrayed as the delivery boys—the workers on the go—for big-time go-go patriarchal capitalists.

It's funny and smart, too, that SBC's runty inflammations shrink again up against a scroll of white paper that climbs 30 feet up the wall. A faintly rendered pencil drawing seems dainty at first. But once revealed, Amanda Manitach's drawing overtakes the space with its malevolent whisper. It includes words borrowed from the doomed, alcoholic, mentally ill actress Frances Farmer, who grew up in West Seattle, where in high school she was already typed a bad girl for denying God in an award-winning essay.

Bad girls, bad boys. One large photo depicts two men holding up a portrait of a third. The third man is painted, his face blurred by pixelation. But he's recognizable if your purpose is racial profiling: He is a Black man, no shirt, tattoos, gold chains, backward cap.

One of the men holding up the painting is Christopher Paul Jordan, who made the painting. He also made the photograph, an expression perhaps of how it feels for Jordan to present his work at all at TAM. He and others led the #StopErasingBlackPeople movement protesting TAM's *Art AIDS America* last year. His two additional works here are contrastingly spectral and indirect, displays of the artist carving out interior space for himself.

Wealth's effects on art are felt directly in *NW Art Now*. This used to be the Northwest Biennial, but the survey has been pushed off and will be delayed again as TAM builds additional wings for private collections. It's hard not to feel ambivalent; TAM is the only museum that promises to do the worthy work of surveying regional art at all.

Because art is a means rather than an end, it is easily pushed aside. Portland artist Lou Watson's piece by TAM's elevators is a joyful example of the freedom and pleasure—the necessity—in pointlessness.

It's a video of a stretch of Interstate 705 just outside the museum. When cars pass the center of the screen, a computer registers their colors and plays them as musical notes, in the rhythm of their passing. The score the footage created is printed out in sheets on the wall, speaking a language that's becoming antique unless you're a professional musician. The sounds themselves are unexpectedly poignant. Imagine that: "Section of the I-705, on a Wednesday, for Electric Piano."

Boom-and-bust cycles pass like freeway traffic, and another work in the show will look very different when Seattle inevitably stops being a place of proliferating sandwich boards on sidewalks.

Paul Komada first leaned two canvas panels against each other outdoors, in the old city center of Pioneer Square. Where words or a logo would go, he neutralized the ad space. He cut holes and loosely sewed into them fragile stretches of hand-knitting that depict a pattern of bricks to match the cobblestone streets and aging masonry around them. They advertise only what already is. ■



FILM



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SIFF Films You Can See by Light Rail

BY CHARLES MUDEDE

This year's Seattle International Film Festival has three theaters (SIFF Cinema Egyptian, Pacific Place, and Ark Lodge) that are easily accessible from Link stations (Capitol Hill, Westlake, and Columbia City, respectively). This kind of match has never happened before in the history of our city.

If you can get to a light-rail station, you can access movies with almost no hassle, no fear of traffic and road ragers, and the pleasure of a short walk between the station and the theater. Here is a list of recommended SIFF films you can watch at the Egyptian and Pacific Place this week.

The Violin Teacher

Wed May 25, Egyptian, 7 pm

Lázaro Ramos captured the film-world's attention by way of 2002's *Madame Satã*, in which he played famed Brazilian convict-turned-drag-performer João Francisco dos Santos. He's barely recognizable as the same actor in this reunion with *Lower City* director Sérgio Machado's *The Violin Teacher*, but he justifies that early hype. It's a more conventional film about a classical violinist who screws up his big audition and ends up teaching poverty-stricken

teens, like the virtuosic Samuel (Kaique de Jesus), in a São Paulo favela. The beats are familiar—man learns to love teaching, students learn to love man—but Ramos makes them count. (KATHY FENNESSY)

Women He's Undressed

Fri May 27, Pacific Place, 1:30 pm

At first you will think that this documentary—which is about the legendary gay Australian-born costume designer Orry-Kelly—has no chance of surviving its staged dramatic sequences. They are not that good, that funny, and too numerous. But the story of the man (and his masterpiece, Marilyn Monroe's form-perfect, nude-fantastic dress in *Some Like It Hot*) sustains and rewards your interest. You will also leave the doc with a really bad taste in your mouth about Cary Grant, Orry-Kelly's first big lover. That human was a real asshole. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

Another Evil

Sat May 28, Egyptian, 11:55 pm

What do you do when your weekend house is haunted? Hire a ghost hunter to come in and

get rid of the pesky spirits. (One has to wonder if this is a jerky move. Can't you just try to get along with them?) But now what's worse, having an awkward weirdo in your house with you for a week or the original haunting problem? Dan (Steve Zissis) and Os (Mark Proksch) spend some forced time together, and things deteriorate from there. *Another Evil* is a different kind of horror film, with more total weirdness and less blood and guts. (GILLIAN ANDERSON)

Truman

Sun May 29, 4:30 pm; Mon May 30, 6:30 pm; Egyptian

All I need to say about this softly sad comedy that is set in the capital of the Spanish-speaking world, Madrid, and concerns two middle-aged friends (one of whom, played by the great Argentinian actor, Ricardo Darin, is dying of cancer), and the dying man's dog, named Truman, is that it has a really funny and satisfying ending. It caught me by surprise. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

Contemporary Color

Mon May 30, Egyptian, 1:30 pm

Produced by David Byrne, *Contemporary Color* came into being after a team asked him for permission to use one of his songs for a routine in 2008, and the subculture fascinated him. The film features 10 composers—including Byrne, tUnE-yArDs, St. Vincent, Ad Rock, and Money Mark—writing original music for 10 color guards. The routines require phenomenal concentration and coordination. The goal? Create the biggest spectacle possible. It's an upbeat cinematic experience that will leave you either exhilarated or exhausted. (DAVE SEGAL)

Eye of the Storm

Tues May 31, Pacific Place, 4 pm

Finally, a film about black African child soldiers that is not predictable or exploitive and doesn't reheat themes and images found in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* ("The horror, the horror"). And yet, *Eye of the Storm* has the musculature of a Hollywood film. It moves, feels, and is edited like a movie that has a big budget, big names, and big themes. Even some of the tension and twists in the plot are the kind that studio executives expect from a script. The hero, a lawyer, is expertly performed by Maimouna N'Diaye. And the villain, a former child soldier, is overdone just a little bit by Fargass Assandé, but he is still a pleasure to watch. Indeed, the scene when, while in his prison cell, the villain grabs a lit cigarette, inhales its smoke with a great desperation and intensity, and exhales with the satisfaction of a cool sun coming out of the clouds after a storm suddenly clears will be imprinted on your mind forever. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

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The Intervention

MAY 28 • 6:30 PM • FILM • AMC PACIFIC PLACE • PARTY • SEATTLE ART MUSEUM
MAY 29 • 3:30 PM • SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Actress Clea DuVall's directorial debut is a modern twist on *The Big Chill*, with a top-notch indie cast portraying a group of friends whose reunion getaway goes south when it is revealed that the trip was orchestrated as an intervention for one troubled marriage.

DIRECTOR CLEA DUVALL, PRODUCER MEL ESLYN SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

The Lure

MAY 27 • 9:30 PM • SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN
MAY 28 • 4:00 PM • SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN
MAY 29 • 9:15 PM • SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A fanciful horror-tinged New Wave rock opera transpires when a pair of bewitching mermaids emerge from the sea to join a Warsaw nightclub act, then face some cruel, bloody choices when one of them falls in love with a handsome young bass player.

DIRECTOR AGNIESZKA SMOCZYŃSKA-KONOPKA SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

*The Revolution Won't Be Televised*

MAY 26 • 6:00 PM • SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN
MAY 27 • 3:30 PM • SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN

In a campaign to unseat president Abdoulaye Wade, three young Senegalese rappers began a protest movement called "We Are Fed Up," taking their message across Dakar to spread a message of freedom and emphasizing the importance of voting through their rap music.

DIRECTOR RAMA THIAW SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

SPECIAL EVENT
Oh You Pretty Things! A David Bowie And Glam Rock Dance Party

MAY 27 • 9:00 PM • THE NEPTUNE THEATRE

SIFF and STG present a celebration of rock icon (and movie star!) David Bowie and his legendary creation Ziggy Stardust. For this special evening, we transport the Neptune Theatre back to the glory days of the glam rock era: complete with sing along music videos, Bowie-inspired burlesque, a performance by tribute band BowieVision, and non-stop dancing to the best music of the gender-bending, hard-rocking '70s.

*In A Valley Of Violence*

MAY 28 • 9:30 PM • SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN
MAY 29 • 3:30 PM • LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS

A lone gunman (Ethan Hawke) and his devoted collie find themselves at odds with the hostile marshal of a small, dusty border town (John Travolta) in this hilariously bloody homage to classic Westerns from director Ti West (*The Innkeepers*).

DIRECTOR TI WEST SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

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X-Men Apocalypse Plays Catch-Up

BY BOBBY ROBERTS

It's never really stopped being 2003 in the X-*Universe*. Even as the *X-Men* films skipped across timelines in decade-long leaps, they've carried with them the same faint air of *apology*—a low-level hum of embarrassment. "This is all really *silly*, isn't it?" each film seemed to whisper. "Superheroes, right?"

Mutants? Yellow spandex? C'mon.



**X-Men:
Apocalypse**

dir. Bryan Singer

Bryan Singer's *X-Men* have never resembled—visually or characteristically—their comic-book source material, but that hasn't stopped those movies from being (mostly) satisfying, character-driven

melodramas. Character-driven melodramas that just *happen* to be about blue/furry/scaly people and Hugh Jackman with knives in his fists.

To keep that 2003-aesthetic feeling somewhat fresh (we're now going on the *ninth* X-movie), the series' producers have decided to mash hard on the reset button. *X-Men: First Class* (2011) was a 1960s-era prequel imagining young Professor X (James McAvoy) and Magneto (Michael Fassbender) as globe-trotting recruiters caught up in international intrigue. And *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014) went all *Back to the Future*, using time travel to unite old and new casts while (miraculously) fixing the series' clusterfucked continuity. And now *X-Men: Apocalypse* hits the reset button again—and *finally* lets in the color and humor of today's other, better superhero films, at long last allowing its characters to more closely resemble their comics counterparts. *Apocalypse* is easily the most "X-Men!" of all the *X-Men* movies.

Unfortunately, *Apocalypse* is also a goofy, sloppy mess. At least *Apocalypse*—written by Simon Kinberg, who also cowrote the deservedly maligned *X-Men: The Last Stand*—is more successful in its excess than *Last Stand*. Quicksilver (Evan Peters) doesn't just get one show-offy set piece but two, and they're both high points of the film. Cyclops—who was basically a grumpy, do-nothing dickhead in the original films—becomes an actual character, and actor Tye Sheridan makes the most of it. McAvoy and Fassbender have yet to disappoint as Marvel's best couple, and while there's a lot of overblown soap opera swirling about like so much digital detritus, that's just as authentically X-Men as things going "BAMF!" and "SNIKT!"

If this was still 2005, *Apocalypse's* missteps might be more easily forgiven. But in 2016 you can't just show cities weightlessly disintegrating and expect it to wow. You can't just replicate comic poses and bellow cartoonishly (those two things are all that *Apocalypse's* villainous Oscar Isaac does, by the way). In the past few years, the superhero film has moved so fast along its evolutionary scale that while letting the X-Men *be* X-Men (for the first time!) is worthy of praise, the rest of *Apocalypse's* attempts to join the superhero pajama jam come off as gauche.

But even that can be read as the X-Men moving in the right direction—they've never been the "coolest" superheroes. They endure because they're just as emotionally fucked-up and confused as we are. ■

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BREZSNY

For the Week of May 25

ARIES (March 21–April 19): To convey the best strategy for you to employ in the coming weeks, I have drawn inspiration from a set of instructions composed by aphorist Alex Stein: *Scribble, scribble, erase. Scribble, erase, scribble. Scribble, scribble, scribble, scribble. Erase, erase, erase. Scribble, erase. Keep what's left.* In other words, Aries, you have a mandate to be innocently empirical, robustly experimental, and cheerfully improvisational—with the understanding that you must also balance your fun with ruthless editing.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): “One must think like a hero to behave like a merely decent human being,” wrote Taurus memoirist May Sarton. That’s a dauntingly high standard to live up to—but for the foreseeable future, it’s important that you try. In the coming weeks, you will need to maintain a heroic level of potency and excellence if you hope to keep your dreams on track and your integrity intact. Luckily, you will have an extraordinary potential to do just that. But you’ll have to work hard to fulfill the potential—as hard as a hero on a quest to find the real Holy Grail in the midst of all the fake Holy Grails.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): “Whatever you’re meant to do, do it now,” said novelist Doris Lessing. “The conditions are always impossible.” I hope you take her advice to heart, Gemini. In my astrological opinion, there is no good excuse for you to postpone your gratification or to procrastinate about moving to the next stage of a big dream. It’s senseless to tell yourself that you will finally get serious as soon as all the circumstances are perfect. Perfection does not and will never exist. The future is now. You’re as ready as you will ever be.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): French painter Henri Matisse didn’t mind being unmoored, befuddled, or in-between. In fact, he regarded these states as being potentially valuable to his creative process. Here’s his testimony: “In art, truth and reality begin when one no longer understands what one is doing or what one knows.” I’m recommending that you try out his attitude, Cancerian. In my astrological opinion, the time has come for you to drum up the inspirations and revelations that become available when you don’t know where the hell you are and what the hell you’re doing.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22): Proposed experiment: Imagine that all the lovers and would-be lovers you have ever adored are in your presence. Review in detail your memories of the times you felt thrillingly close to them. Fill yourself up with feelings of praise and gratitude for their mysteries. Sing the love songs you love best. Look into a mirror and rehearse your “I only have eyes for you” gaze until it is both luminous and smoldering. Cultivate facial expressions that are full of tender, focused affection. Got all that, Leo? My purpose in urging you to engage in these practices is that it’s the High Sexy Time of year for you. You have a license to be as erotically attractive and wisely intimate as you dare.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22): “Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you’ll understand what little chance you have in trying to change others,” wrote editor Jacob M. Braude. Normally I would endorse his poignant counsel, but for the foreseeable future I am predicting that the first half of it won’t fully apply to you. Why? Because you are entering a phase that I regard as unusually favorable for the project of transforming yourself. It may not be easy to do so, but it’ll be easier than it has been in a long time. And I bet you will find the challenge to reimagine, reinvent, and reshape yourself at least as much fun as it is hard work.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22): “Never turn down an adventure without a really good reason,” says author Rebecca Solnit in her book *The Faraway Nearby*. That’s a thought she had as she contemplated the possibility of riding a raft down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon. Here’s how I suspect this meditation applies to you, Libra: There have been other times and there will be other times when you will have good reasons for not embarking on an available adventure. But now is not one of those moments.

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21): Russian poet Vera Pavlova tells about how once when she was using a pen and paper to jot down some fresh ideas, she got a paper cut on her palm. Annoying, right? On the contrary. She loved the fact that the new mark substantially extended her life line. The palmistry-lover in her celebrated. I’m seeing a comparable twist in your near future, Scorpio. A minor inconvenience or mild setback will be a sign that a symbolic revitalization or enhancement is nigh.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 21): Norway is mountainous, but its neighbor Finland is quite flat. A group of Norwegians has launched a campaign to partially remedy the imbalance. They propose that to mark the hundredth anniversary of Finland’s independence, their country will offer a unique birthday gift: the top of Halti mountain. Right now the 4,479-foot peak is in Norway. But under the proposed plan, the border between countries will be shifted so that the peak will be transferred to Finland. I would love you to contemplate generous gestures like this in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. It’s a highly favorable time for you to bestow extra imaginative blessings. (P.S. The consequences will be invigorating to your own dreams.)

CAPRICORN (Dec 22–Jan 19): I believe that every one of us should set aside a few days every year when we celebrate our gaffes, our flaws, and our bloopers. During this crooked holiday, we are not embarrassed about the false moves we have made. We don’t decry our bad judgment or criticize our delusional behavior. Instead, we forgive ourselves of our sins. We work to understand and feel compassion for the ignorance that led us astray. Maybe we even find redemptive value in our apparent lapses; we come to see that they saved us from some painful experience or helped us avoid getting a supposed treasure that would have turned out to be a booby prize. Now would be a perfect time for you to observe this crooked holiday.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18): Sometimes the love you experience for those you care about makes you feel vulnerable. You may worry about being out of control or swooping so deeply into your tenderness that you lose yourself. Giving yourself permission to cherish and nurture can make you feel exposed, even unsafe. But none of that applies in the coming weeks. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, love will be a source of potency and magnificence for you. It will make you smarter, braver, and cooler. Your words of power will be this declaration by Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani: “When I love / I feel that I am the king of time / I possess the earth and everything on it / and ride into the sun upon my horse.” (Translated by Lena Jayyusi and Christopher Middleton.)

PISCES (Feb 19–March 20): In November 1916, at the height of World War I, the Swedish schooner *Jönköping* set sail for Finland, carrying 4,400 bottles of champagne intended for officers of the occupying Russian army. But the delivery was interrupted. A hostile German submarine sunk the boat, and the precious cargo drifted to the bottom of the Baltic Sea. The story didn’t end there, however. More than eight decades later, a Swedish salvage team retrieved a portion of the lost treasure, which had been well preserved in the frosty abyss. Taste tests revealed that the bubbly alcoholic beverage was “remarkably light-bodied, extraordinarily elegant, and fantastically fresh, with discreet, slow-building toasty aromas of great finesse.” (Source: tinyurl.com/toastyaromas.) I foresee the potential of a similar resurrection in your future, Pisces. How deep are you willing to dive? ■

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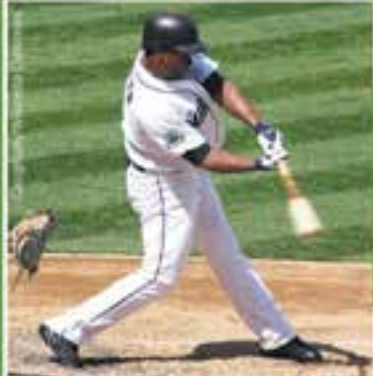
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SPICE KING Fluffy naan gets bubbly, brown, and blistered in the tandoor oven.

At Spice King, Breads Rule—Baked, Fried, Griddled, or Stuffed

You Get to Dip Them in All Kinds of Sauces

BY ANGELA GARBES

I haven't been this excited about bread in a long time. Maybe ever. Sure, a crusty, rustic loaf—the kind that leaves a trail of shattered crumbs all over my clothes and the kitchen counter—is great, but it's not often that I crave it. For the last month, though, I've found myself repeatedly pointing my car toward a warehouse behind the Walmart in Renton to eat the warm, fresh, cooked-to-order breads at Spice King, a Punjabi restaurant tucked inside the international grocery DK Market.

Spice King's stuffed parathas (\$4.99) arrive at your table straight from the griddle where they are cooked on, hot and steamy, soft and floppy. They look like giant savory pancakes, each one about a foot in diameter. Their edges hang off the serving plates enticingly. The parathas are made from an unleavened whole-wheat dough—dusty brown in color, laced with a hint of grittiness and sweetness—that are rolled out into thin, wide circles before being stuffed with spiced fillings such as aloo (potato), gobi (cauliflower), keema (ground lamb), mooli (grated radish), or the soft cheese called paneer. The mooli is especially tasty: moist, earthy, sweet, with a pleasant edge of bitterness. You can order your parathas (and every dish at Spice King) mild or spicy, on a scale of zero to five stars.

It's well worth the risk of burning your fingertips (and the roof of your mouth) to

immediately tear into a hot paratha, its swaths of dough dotted with gorgeous golden-brown bubbles. The bread rips apart easily into jagged-edged pieces, steam and bits of diced cilantro flying out. Dunk your paratha in some of the cooling yogurt-based raita that accompanies it, or add fuel to the fire by dipping into the fiery house-made fluorescent coral-colored hot sauce. Or do both and, while you're at it, be sure to try some of Spice King's verdant mint chutney—herbaceous, tangy, and subtly sweet.

Spice King
 720 Lind Ave SW,
 Renton, 425-226-6700

Paneer naan (\$4.99) is an entirely different bread, but no less delicious. The naan, stuffed with crumbles of creamy, slight-

ly tangy paneer and fresh cilantro, is made from a leavened white flour dough that's baked inside a clay oven called a tandoor. As it bakes, it transforms up into a light, airy bread. Bubbles puff up on its surface, and the heat from the tandoor brandishes them with a flavorful char. After cooking, it's brushed with a generous coating of clarified butter and arrives at the table glistening and lovely. Spice King's tandoor also produces a satisfying keema naan (\$4.99), which is stuffed with spiced, finely minced lamb and sweet peas.

Tandoors have long been used in the province of Punjab; they are, traditionally, wood-fired clay ovens that imbue the meats and breads cooked inside them with heavy dose of smoky, grilled flavor. (These days, tandoors can be portable, fueled by gas or

electricity, and made of stainless steel.) According to Pushpesh Pant, author of the massive and comprehensive *India: The Cookbook*, Punjab has given the world “tandoori food, tandoor ovens, and, arguably, the Indian restaurant.”

When the British left India in 1947, the subcontinent was divided into two independent countries, Pakistan and India. Punjab—home to Hindus, Sikhs, and other religions and ethnicities—was also divided into two separate provinces, displacing huge numbers of people and scattering Punjabi refugees throughout India.

“A string of Punjabi roadside restaurants called dhabas sprang up all over the larger cities and proliferated along every highway,” writes Pant in *India: The Cookbook*. “They introduced the rest of India to the joys of tandoor cuisine and the pleasures of eating out. Dhabas started not as a business proposition, but as the refugee strategy for survival. The food is mostly cooked in a tandoor oven, the menu is limited, ingredients are fresh, and the food is simple.”

Today, Punjab produces more than half of the country’s grains, including a large percentage of its wheat, which may explain why there’s so much wonderful bread at Spice King. While you could easily make a meal out of its stuffed parathas and naans, don’t miss its plain breads, which are perfect companions to the restaurant’s other dishes (of which there are many), including tandoori-cooked chicken, lamb, and fish.

Boti kebab (\$12.99), cubes of charred, tandoori-cooked lamb, are served on a sizzling cast-iron plate with onions and bell peppers. They’re tossed in an odd, though not entirely unpleasant, sweet-sour-spicy glaze that can be cut nicely with a generous squeeze of lime juice. The meat is deeply gamey and smoky, and it tastes great wrapped in a piece of plain, buttery naan that’s been dragged across the hot plate to pick up sticky bits of flavor. A drizzle of mint chutney brightens each bite.

Naan also acts as an efficient sponge for soaking up the complex gravy—rich with red chilies, ginger, cardamom, and other spices—in Punjabi bakra (\$11.99). Tender pieces of musky goat swim in the dark, flavorful sauce, begging to be sucked clean off their little bones.

Spice King offers a long list of vegetarian dishes made with lentils, chickpeas, and eggplant. Bhindi masala (\$9.99) is a standout: Thin slices of okra, fried so they are dry, crispy, and without any trace of their viscous juices, are tossed in a thick gritty spice paste that’s warm with cumin, bitter with fenugreek, and hot with chilies. Spread the okra on a piece of fresh roti—a thin whole-wheat bread baked in the tandoor—whose simplicity contrasts all of the dish’s spices and crunch.

Saucy dishes like saag paneer (\$10.99), cubes of cheese nestled into a sea of pureed spinach and mustard greens—so dark and green it tastes like the forest—demand to be sopped up with Spice King’s roti and naan. The sauce is so dense and velvety that it clings to your spoon, landing on your bread only after a strong flick of the wrist.

Much of the action at Spice King comes from its location inside DK Market, a sprawling market selling Asian, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern ingredients. There are whole aisles of tinned fish, olive oils, dried legumes, and international cookies. Its shelves are stocked with seemingly every ingredient imaginable, from bitter melon to Washington-grown buckwheat, kefir-cultured farmers cheese to Iraqi flatbread. A diverse set of customers push their way through Spice King’s front doors, inquiring about samosas, chutneys, and levels of heat.

“Ma’am, three stars is still very spicy,” a woman behind the counter recently told a customer hoping for a dish that was medium-spicy. “You see, Indian ‘spicy’ and American ‘spicy’ are very different.” ■

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2016 STRANGER GENIUS AWARD NOMINEE...



TEXT BY JEN GRAVES / PHOTO BY KELLY O

Barbara Earl Thomas!

Drawer, painter, and sculptor Barbara Earl Thomas was the first artist we told this year that she'd been nominated for a Stranger Genius Award. Here's her reaction, photographed outside her studio in Columbia City.

When we talked to her by phone before the shoot, she said, "My shit ain't over!"

She has been making work in Seattle for a long time. As a student many years ago at the University of Washington, she studied with Jacob Lawrence. Even though she's nominated in the visual art category, she's also a funny, gifted writer of stories, poems, and nonfiction.

Her drawings, paintings, and sculptures contain what can't be spoken directly. Each scene is a mysterious tangle of lines and cuts, of shadows and colors adding up to people, animals, and weather—and sometimes it's difficult to separate them from each other. You can also imagine how they contain the multitudes of her past, what with her family's history in slavery, sharecropping, deep-sea fishing, the Great Migration (to Seattle, where she grew up), and her parents' death in a boating accident in 1988.

Thomas's solo exhibition *Heaven Is Burning* opens June 24 at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art.

As a 2016 nominee, Thomas will be celebrated at the free Stranger Genius Awards party on **September 24** at the Moore Theatre. She's also in the running for \$5,000, no strings attached. The list of all 15 artists nominated this year will be published on Slog at 10:00 am on Thursday, May 26. Go to thestranger.com/genius2016 to see the whole list. ■

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